

THE
ADVENTURER.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

—*Tentanda via est ; quâ me quoque possim
Tollere humo, victorque virum volitare per ora.*

VIRG.

On vent'rous wing in quest of praise I go,
And leave the gazing multitude below.

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THE

THE
ADVENTURER.

No. 48. SATURDAY, *April 21, 1753.*

*Ibat triumphans Virgo——
Sunt qui rogatam rettulerint preces
Tulisse CHRISTO, redderet ut reo
Lunem jacenti, tum invenit halitum
Vitæ innovatum, visibus integris.*

PRUDENT.

As rescu'd from intended wrong,
The modest virgin pac'd along,
By blasting heav'n depriv'd of day
Beneath her feet th' accuser lay :
She mark'd, and soon the pray'r arose
To HIM who bade us love our foes ;
By faith inforc'd the pious call
Again relum'd the sightless ball.

TO LOVE AN ENEMY, is the distinguishing characteristic of a religion, which is not of man but of GOD.

It could be delivered as a precept only by HIM, who lived and died to establish it by his example.

VOL. II.

B

At

At the close of that season, in which human frailty has commemorated sufferings which it could not sustain, a season in which the most zealous devotion can only substitute a change of food for a total abstinence of forty days; it cannot, surely, be incongruous to consider, what approaches we can make to that divine love which these sufferings expressed, and how far man, in imitation of his SAVIOUR, can bless those who curse him, and return good for evil.

We cannot, indeed, behold the example but at a distance; nor consider it without being struck with a sense of our own debility; every man who compares his life with this divine rule, instead of exulting in his own excellence, will smite his breast like the publican, and cry out, "GOD be merciful to me a sinner!" Thus to acquaint us with ourselves, may, perhaps, be one use of the precept; but the precept cannot, surely, be considered as having no other.

I know it will be said, that our passions are not in our power; and that, therefore, a precept, to love or to hate, is impossible; for if the gratification of all our wishes was offered

offered us to love a stranger as we love a child, we could not fulfil the condition, however we might desire the reward.

But admitting this to be true, and that we cannot love an enemy as we love a friend ; it is yet equally certain, that we may perform those actions which are produced by love, from a higher principle : we may, perhaps, derive moral excellence from natural defects, and exert our reason instead of indulging a passion. If our enemy hungers we may feed him, and if he thirsts we may give him drink ; this, if we could love him, would be our conduct ; and this may still be our conduct, though to love him is impossible. The CHRISTIAN will be prompted to relieve the necessities of his enemy, by his love to GOD : he will rejoice in an opportunity to express the zeal of his gratitude and the alacrity of his obedience, at the same time that he appropriates the promises and anticipates his reward.

But though he who is beneficent upon these principles, may in the scripture sense be said to love his enemy ; yet something more may still be effected : the passion itself in some degree is in our power ; we may

rise to a yet nearer emulation of divine forgiveness, we may think as well as act with kindness, and be sanctified as well in heart as in life.

Though love and hatred are necessarily produced in the human breast, when the proper objects of these passions occur, as the colour of material substances is necessarily perceived by an eye before which they are exhibited ; yet it is in our power to change the passion, and to cause either love or hatred to be excited, by placing the same object in different circumstances ; as a changeable silk of blue and yellow may be held so as to excite the idea either of yellow or blue.

No act is deemed more injurious, or resented with greater acrimony, than the marriage of a child, especially of a daughter, without the consent of a parent : it is frequently considered as a breach of the strongest and tenderest obligations ; as folly and ingratitude, treachery and rebellion. By the imputation of these vices, a child becomes the object of indignation and resentment : indignation and resentment in the breast, therefore, of the parent are necessarily excited : and there can be no doubt, but that these are species of hatred. But if the child is
considered

considered as still retaining the endearing softness of filial affection, as still longing for reconciliation, and profaning the rites of marriage with tears ; as having been driven from the path of duty, only by the violence of passions which none have always resisted, and which many have indulged with much greater turpitude : the same object that before excited indignation and resentment, will now be regarded with pity, and pity is a species of love.

Those, indeed, who resent this breach of filial duty with implacability, though perhaps it is the only one of which the offender has been guilty, demonstrate that they are without natural affection ; and that they would have prostituted their offspring, if not to lust, yet to affections which are equally vile and sordid, the thirst of gold or the cravings of ambition : for he can never be thought to be sincerely interested in the felicity of his child, who when some of the means of happiness are lost by indiscretion, suffers his resentment to take away the rest.

Among friends, sallies of quick resentment are extremely frequent. Friendship is a con-

stant reciprocation of benefits, to which the sacrifice of private interest is sometimes necessary ; it is common for each to set too much value upon those which he bestows, and too little upon those which he receives ; this mutual mistake in so important an estimation, produces mutual charges of unkindness and ingratitude ; each, perhaps, professes himself ready to forgive, but neither will condescend to be forgiven. Pride, therefore, still increases the enmity which it began ; the friend is considered as selfish, assuming, injurious and revengeful ; he consequently becomes an object of hatred ; and while he is thus considered, to love him is impossible. But thus to consider him, is at once a folly and a fault : each ought to reflect, that he is, at least in the opinion of the other, incurring the crimes that he imputes ; that the foundation of their enmity is no more than a mistake ; and that this mistake is the effect of weakness or vanity, which is common to all mankind : the character of both would then assume a very different aspect, love would again be excited by the return of its object, and each would be impatient to exchange acknowledgments, and

and recover the felicity which was so near being lost.

But if after we have admitted an acquaintance to our bosom as a friend, it should appear that we had mistaken his character; if he should betray our confidence, and use the knowledge of our affairs, which perhaps he obtained by offers of service, to effect our ruin; if he defames us to the world, and adds perjury to falsehood; if he violates the chastity of a wife, or seduces a daughter to prostitution; we may still consider him in such circumstances as will incline us to fulfil the precept, and to regard him without the rancour of hatred or the fury of revenge.

Every character, however it may deserve punishment, excites hatred only in proportion as it appears to be malicious; and pure malice has never been imputed to human beings. The wretch, who has thus deceived and injured us, should be considered as having ultimately intended, not evil to us, but good to himself. It should also be remembered, that he has mistaken the means; that he has forfeited the friendship of HIM whose favour is better than life; by the same conduct which forfeited ours; and that to whatever view he

sacrificed our temporal interest, to that also he sacrificed his own hope of immortality ; that he is now seeking felicity which he can never find, and incurring punishment that will last for ever. And how much better than this wretch is he, in whom the contemplation of his condition can excite no pity ? Surely if such an enemy hungers, we may, without suppressing any passions, give him food ; for who that sees a criminal dragged to execution, for whatever crime, would refuse him a cup of cold water ?

On the contrary, he whom GOD has forgiven must necessarily become amiable to man : to consider his character without prejudice or partiality, after it has been changed by repentance, is to love him ; and impartially to consider it, is not only our duty but our interest.

Thus may we love our enemies and add a dignity to our nature of which pagan virtue had no conception. But if to love our enemies is the glory of a CHRISTIAN, to treat others with coldness, neglect, and malignity, is rather the reproach of a fiend than a man. Unprovoked enmity, the frown of unkindness and the menaces of oppression, should be far
from

from those who profess themselves to be followers of HIM who in his life went about doing good; who instantly healed a wound that was given in his defence; and who, when he was fainting in his last agony, and treated with mockery and derision, conceived at once a prayer and an apology for his murderers; FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.

N^o. 49. TUESDAY, *April 24, 1753.*

————— *Flumina libant*
Summa leves—————

VIRG.

—— They lightly skim,
 And gently sip the dimply river's brim.

THE character of the scholars of the present age will not be much injured or misrepresented by saying, that they seem to be superficially acquainted with a multitude of subjects, but to go to the bottom of very few. This appears in criticism and polite learning, as well as in the abstruser sciences :
 by

by the diffusion of knowledge its depth is abated.

Eutyches harangues with wonderful plausibility on the distinct merits of all the Greek and Roman classics, without having thoroughly and attentively perused, or entered into the spirit and scope of one of them. But *Eutyches* has diligently digested the dissertations of RAPIN, BOUHOURS, FELTON, BLACKWALL, and ROLLIN; treatises that administer great consolation to the indolent and incurious, to those who can tamely rest satisfied with second-hand knowledge, as they give concise accounts of all the great heroes of ancient literature, and enable them to speak of their several characters, without the tedious drudgery of perusing the originals. But the characters of writers, as of men, are of a very mixed and complicated nature, and are not to be comprehended in so small a compass: such objects do not admit of being drawn in miniature, with accuracy and distinctness.

To the present prevailing passion for French moralists and French critics, may be imputed the superficial shew of learning and abilities of which I am complaining. And since these

alluring authors are become not only so fashionable an amusement of those who call themselves the polite world, but also engross the attention of academical students, I am tempted to enquire into the merits of the most celebrated among them of both kinds.

That MONTAGNE abounds in native wit, in quick penetration, in a perfect knowledge of the human heart, and the various vanities and vices that lurk in it, cannot justly be denied. But a man who undertakes to transmit his thoughts on life and manners to posterity, with the hopes of entertaining and amending future ages, must be either exceedingly vain or exceedingly careless, if he expects either of these effects can be produced by wanton fallies of the imagination, by useless and impertinent digressions, by never forming or following any regular plan, never classing or confining his thoughts, never changing or rejecting any sentiment that occurs to him. Yet this appears to have been the conduct of our celebrated essayist: and it has produced many awkward imitators, who, under the notion of writing with the fire and freedom of this lively old

old Gascon, have fallen into confused rhapsodies and uninteresting egotisms.

But these blemishes of MONTAGNE are trifling and unimportant, compared with his vanity, his indecency, and his scepticism. That man must totally have suppressed the natural love of honest reputation, which is so powerfully felt by the truly wise and good, who can calmly sit down to give a catalogue of his private vices, and publish his most secret infirmities, with the pretence of exhibiting a faithful picture of himself and of exactly portraying the minutest features of his mind. Surely he deserves the censure QUINTILIAN bestows on DEMETRIUS, a celebrated Grecian statuary, that he was "nimius in veritate, et similitudinis quam pulchritudinis amantior;" more studious of likeness than of beauty.

Though the maxims of the DUKE DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULT, another fashionable philosopher, are written with expressive elegance, and with nervous brevity; yet I must be pardoned for affirming, that he who labours to lessen the dignity of human nature, destroys many efficacious motives for practising worthy actions, and deserves ill of his fellow creatures whom

whom he paints in dark and disagreeable colours. As the opinions of men usually contract a tincture from the circumstances and conditions of their lives, it is easy to discern the chagrined courtier, in the satire which this polite misanthrope has composed on his his own species. According to his gloomy and uncomfortable system, virtue is merely the result of temper and constitution, of chance or of vanity, of fashion or the fear of losing reputation. Thus humanity is brutalised; and every high and generous principle is represented as imaginary, romantic and chimerical; reason, which by some is too much aggrandized and almost deified, is here degraded into an abject slave of appetite and passion, and deprived even of her just and indisputable authority. As a CHRISTIAN and as a man, I despise, I detest such debasing principles.

ROCHEFOUCAULT, to give a smartness and shortness to his sentences, frequently makes use of the antithesis, a mode of speaking the most tiresome and disgusting of any, by the sameness and familiarity of the periods. And sometimes, in order to keep up the point, he neglects the propriety and
justness

justness of the sentiment, and grossly contradicts himself. "Happiness," says he, "consists in the taste, and not in the things : and it is by enjoying what a man loves, that he becomes happy ; not by having what others think desirable." The obvious doctrine contained in this reflection, is the great power of imagination with regard to felicity ; but, adds the reflector, in a following maxim, "We are never so happy or so miserable, as we imagine ourselves to be ;" which is certainly a plain and palpable contradiction of the foregoing opinion. And of such contradictions many instances might be alledged in this admired writer, which evidently shew that he had not digested his thoughts with philosophical exactness and precision.

But the characters of LA BRUEYRE deserve to be spoken of in far different terms. They are drawn with spirit and propriety, without a total departure from nature and resemblance, as sometimes is the case in pretended pictures of life. In a few instances only he has failed, by overcharging his portraits with many ridiculous features that cannot exist together in one subject ; as in the

the character of Menalcas the absent man, which, though applauded by one of my predecessors, is surely absurd, and false to nature. This author appears to be a warm admirer of virtue, and a steady promoter of her interest: he was neither ashamed of CHRISTIANITY, nor afraid to defend it: accordingly, few have exposed the folly and absurdity of modish infidels, of infidels made by vanity and not by want of conviction, with so much solidity and pleasantry united: he disdained to sacrifice truth to levity and licentiousness. Many of his characters are personal, and contain allusions which cannot now be understood. It is, indeed, the fate of personal satire to perish with the generation in which it is written: many artful strokes in THEOPHRASTUS himself, perhaps appear coarse or insipid, which the Athenians looked upon with admiration. A different age and different nation render us incapable of relishing several beauties in the Alchymist of JOHNSON, and in the Don Quixote of CERVANTES.

SAINT EVREMOND is a florid and verbose trifler, without novelty or solidity in his reflections. What more can be expected from
one

one who proposed the dissolute and affected PETRONIUS for his model in writing and living.

As the corruption of our taste is not of equal consequence with the depravation of our virtue, I shall not spend so much time on the critics, as I have done on the moralists of France.

How admirably RAPIN, the most popular among them, was qualified to sit in judgment upon HOMER and THUCYDIDES, DEMOSTHENES and PLATO, may be gathered from an anecdote preserved by MENAGE, who affirms upon his own knowledge, that LE FEVRE of Saumur furnished this assuming critic with the Greek passages he had occasion to cite, RAPIN himself being totally ignorant of that language. The censures and the commendations this writer bestows, are general and indiscriminate; without specifying the reasons of his approbation or dislike, and without alledging the passages that may support his opinion: whereas just criticism demands, not only that every beauty or blemish be minutely pointed out in its different degree and kind, but also that
the

the reason and foundation of excellencies and faults be accurately ascertained.

BOSSU is usually and justly placed at the head of the commentators on Aristotle's poetics, which certainly he understood and explained in a more masterly manner than either BENI or CASTELVETRO: but in one or two instances he has indulged a love of subtilty and groundless refinement. That I may not be accused of affecting a kind of hatred against all the French critics, I would observe, that this learned writer merits the attention and diligent perusal of the true scholar. What I principally admire in BOSSU, is the regularity of his plan, and the exactness of his method; which add utility as well as beauty to his work.

BRUMOY has displayed the excellencies of the Greek tragedy in a judicious and comprehensive manner. His translations are faithful and elegant; and the analysis of those plays, which, on account of some circumstances in ancient manners would shock the readers of this age, and would not therefore bear an entire version, is perspicuous and full. Of all the French critics, he and the judicious FENELON have had the justice to confess,

or perhaps the penetration to perceive, in what instance CORNEILLE and RACINE have falsified and modernized the characters, and overloaded with unnecessary intrigues the simple plots of the Ancients.

Let no one, however, deceive himself in thinking, that he can gain a competent knowledge either of ARISTOTLE or SOPHOCLES, from BOSSU or BRUMOY, how excellent soever these two commentators may be. To contemplate these exalted geniuses through such mediums, is like beholding the orb of the sun during an eclipse, in a vessel of water. But let him eagerly press forward to the great originals : “juvet integros accedere fontes ;” “his be the joy t’approach th’ untasted “springs.” Let him remember, that the *Grecian* writers alone, both critics and poets, are the best masters to teach, in MILTON’S emphatical style, “What the laws are of “a true epic poem, what of a dramatic, “what of a lyric ; what decorum is ; which is “the grand masterpiece to observe. This “would make them soon perceive, what “despicable creatures our common rhymers “and playwrights be ; and shew them, “what religious, what glorious and magnificent

“ nificent use might be made of poetry, both
“ in divine and human things.”

Z

N^o 50. SATURDAY, *April 28*, 1753.

*Quicumque turpi fraude semel innotuit,
Etiamfi vera dici, amittit fidem.*

PHÆD.

The wretch that often has deceiv'd,
Though truth he speaks is ne'er believ'd.

WHEN ARISTOTLE was once asked,
what a man could gain by uttering
falsehoods ; he replied, “ Not to be credited
“ when he shall tell the truth.”

The character of a liar is at once so hateful and contemptible, that even of those who have lost their virtue it might be expected, that from the violation of truth they should be restrained by their pride. Almost every other vice that disgraces human nature, may be kept in countenance by applause and association : the corrupter of virgin innocence sees himself envied by the men, and at least not detested by the women : the drunkard may easily unite with beings, devoted

like himself to noisy merriments or silent insensibility, who will celebrate his victories over the novices of intemperance, boast themselves the companions of his prowess, and tell with rapture of the multitudes whom unsuccessful emulation has hurried to the grave: even the robber and the cut-throat have their followers, who admire their address and intrepidity, their stratagems of rapine, and their fidelity to the gang.

The liar, and only the liar, is invariably and universally despised, abandoned, and disowned: he has no domestic consolations, which he can oppose to the censure of mankind; he can retire to no fraternity, where his crimes may stand in the place of virtues; but is given up to the hisses of the multitude, without friend and without apologist. It is the peculiar condition of falsehood to be equally detested by the good and bad: "The devils," says Sir THOMAS BROWN, "do not tell lies to one another; for truth is necessary to all societies: nor can the society of hell subsist without it."

It is natural to expect, that a crime thus generally detested should be generally avoided; at least, that none should expose himself

self to unabated and unpitied infamy, without an adequate temptation ; and that to guilt so easily detected, and so severely punished, an adequate temptation would not readily be found.

Yet so it is, that in defiance of censure and contempt, truth is frequently violated ; and scarcely the most vigilant and unremitted circumspection will secure him that mixes with mankind, from being hourly deceived by men of whom it can scarcely be imagined that they mean any injury to him or profit to themselves ; even where the subject of conversation could not have been expected to put the passions in motion, or to have excited either hope or fear, or zeal or malignity, sufficient to induce any man to put his reputation in hazard, however little he might value it, or to overpower the love of truth, however weak might be its influence.

The casuists have very diligently distinguished lies into their several classes, according to their various degrees of malignity : but they have, I think, generally omitted that which is most common, and perhaps not least mischievous ; which since the

moralists have not given it a name, I shall distinguish as the lie of vanity.

To vanity may justly be imputed most of the falsehoods, which every man perceives hourly playing upon his ear, and, perhaps, most of those that are propagated with success. To the lie of commerce, and the lie of malice, the motive is so apparent, that they are seldom negligently or implicitly received: suspicion is always watchful over the practices of interest; and whatever the hope of gain, or desire of mischief, can prompt one man to assert, another is by reasons equally cogent incited to refute. But vanity pleases herself with such light gratifications, and looks forward to pleasure so remotely consequential, that her practices raise no alarm, and her stratagems are not easily discovered.

Vanity is, indeed, often suffered to pass unpursued by suspicion; because he that would watch her motions, can never be at rest: fraud and malice are bounded in their influence; some opportunity of time and place is necessary to their agency; but scarce any man is abstracted one moment from his vanity; and he, to whom truth affords no
grati-

gratifications, is generally inclined to seek them in falsehoods.

It is remarked by Sir KENELM DIGBY, "that every man has a desire to appear superior to others, though it were only in having seen what they have not seen." Such an accidental advantage, since it neither implies merit, nor confers dignity, one would think should not be desired so much as to be counterfeited: yet even this vanity, trifling as it is, produces innumerable narratives, all equally false; but more or less credible in proportion to the skill or confidence of the relater. How many may a man of diffusive conversation count among his acquaintances, whose lives have been signalized by numberless escapes; who never cross the river but in a storm, or take a journey into the country without more adventures than befel the knight-errants of ancient times in pathless forests or enchanted castles! How many must he know, to whom portents and prodigies are of daily occurrence; and for whom nature is hourly working wonders invisible to every other eye, only to supply them with subjects of conversation!

Others there are that amuse themselves with the dissemination of falsehood, at greater hazard of detection and disgrace; men marked out by some lucky planet for universal confidence and friendship, who have been consulted in every difficulty, entrusted with every secret, and summoned to every transaction: it is the supreme felicity of these men, to stun all companies with noisy information; to still doubt, and overbear opposition, with certain knowledge or authentic intelligence. A liar of this kind, with a strong memory or brisk imagination, is often the oracle of an obscure club, and, till time discovers his impostures, dictates to his hearers with uncontrouled authority; for if a publick question be started, he was present at the debate; if a new fashion be mentioned, he was at court the first day of its appearance; if a new performance of literature draws the attention of the public, he has patronised the author, and seen his work in manuscript; if a criminal of eminence be condemned to die, he often predicted his fate, and endeavoured his reformation: and who that lives at a distance from the scene of action, will dare to contradict a man, who reports from his own eyes and ears,
and

and to whom all persons and affairs are thus intimately known ?

This kind of falsehood is generally successful for a time, because it is practised at first with timidity and caution : but the prosperity of the liar is of short duration ; the reception of one story is always an incitement to the forgery of another less probable : and he goes on to triumph over tacit credulity, till pride or reason rises up against him, and his companions will no longer endure to see him wiser than themselves.

It is apparent, that the inventors of all these fictions intend some exaltation of themselves, and are led off by the pursuit of honour from their attendance upon truth : their narratives always imply some consequence in favour of their courage, their sagacity, or their activity, their familiarity with the learned, or their reception among the great ; they are always bribed by the present pleasure of seeing themselves superior to those that surround them, and receiving the homage of silent attention and envious admiration.

But vanity is sometimes excited to fiction by less visible gratifications : the present age abounds with a race of liars who are content
with

with the consciousness of falsehood, and whose pride is to deceive others without any gain or glory to themselves. Of this tribe it is the supreme pleasure to remark a lady in the playhouse or the park, and to publish, under the character of a man suddenly enamoured, an advertisement in the news of the next day, containing a minute description of her person and her dress. From this artifice, however, no other effect can be expected, than perturbations which the writer can never see, and conjectures of which he never can be informed : some mischief, however, he hopes he has done ; and to have done mischief, is of some importance. He sets his invention to work again, and produces a narrative of a robbery or a murder, with all the circumstances of time and place accurately adjusted. This is a jest of greater effect and longer duration : if he fixes his scene at a proper distance, he may for several days keep a wife in terror for her husband, or a mother for her son ; and please himself with reflecting, that by his abilities and address some addition is made to the miseries of life.

There is, I think, an ancient law in Scotland, by which LEASING-MAKING was
capitally

capitally punished. I am, indeed, far from desiring to increase in this kingdom the number of executions : yet I cannot but think, that they who destroy the confidence of society, weaken the credit of intelligence, and interrupt the security of life ; harraßs the delicate with shame, and perplex the timorous with alarms ; might very properly be awakened to a sense of their crimes, by denunciations of a whipping-post or pillory : since many are so insensible of right and wrong, that they have no standard of action but the law ; nor feel guilt, but as they dread punishment.

T.

N^o 51. TUESDAY, May 1, 1753.

Si quid ex Pindari, Flaccive diſtis fuerit interjeſtum, ſplendet oratio; & ſordeſcit, ſi quid e ſacris Pſalmis aptè fuerit attextum? An Libri Spiritûs cœleſtis afflatus præditi ſordent nobis præſcriptis Homeri, Euripidis aut Ennii. ERASMUS.

Is a diſcourſe beautified by a quotation from Pindar and Horace? and ſhall we think it blemiſhed by a paſſage from the ſacred Pſalms aptly interwoven? Do we deſpiſe the books which were dictated by the SPIRIT of GOD, in compariſon of Homer, Euripides, and Ennius?

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

IN the library of the Benedictine Monks at Lyons, has lately been diſcovered a moſt curious manuſcript of the celebrated LONGINUS. As I know you will eagerly embrace every opportunity of contributing to promote or rather revive, reverence and love for the SACRED WRITINGS, I ſend you the following extract tranſlated from this extraordinary work.

My dear TERENCE.

YOU may remember that in my treatiſe on the Sublime, I quoted a ſtriking example

example of it from MOSES the Jewish law-giver ; “ Let there be light, and there was “ light.” I have since met with a large volume translated into Greek by the order of Ptolemy, containing all the religious opinions, the civil laws and customs, of that singular and unaccountable people. And to confess the truth, I am greatly astonished at the incomparable elevation of its stile, and the supreme grandeur of its images ; many of which excel the utmost efforts of the most exalted genius of Greece.

At the appearance of GOD, the mountains and the forests do not only tremble as in HOMER, but “ are melted down like wax at his presence.” He rides not on a swift chariot over the level waves like Neptune, but “ comes flying upon the wings of the wind : “ while the floods clap their hands, and the “ hills and forests, and earth and heaven, all “ exult together before their Lord.” And how dost thou conceive, my friend, the exalted idea of the universal presence of the infinite MIND can be expressed, adequately to the dignity of the subject, but in the following manner ? — “ Whither shall I go from “ thy presence ? If I climb up into heaven,
“ thou

“ thou art there ! If I go down to hell, lo,
“ thou art there also ! If I take wings and
“ fly toward the morning, or remain in the
“ uttermost parts of the western ocean ; even
“ there also” — the poet does not say “ I
shall find thee,” but, far more forcibly and
emphatically — “ thy right hand shall
hold me.” With what majesty and magnifi-
cence is the CREATOR of the world, be-
fore whom the whole universe is represented
as nothing, nay, less than nothing, and va-
nity, introduced making the following sub-
lime enquiry ! “ Who hath measured the
“ waters in the hollow of his hand, and me-
“ ted out heaven with a span, and compre-
“ hended the dust of the earth in a measure,
“ and weighed the mountains in scales, and
“ the hills in a balance ?” Produce me, TE-
RENTIANUS, any image or description in
PLATO himself, so truly elevated and di-
vine ! Where did these barbarians learn to
speak of GOD, in terms that alone appear
worthy of him ? How contemptible and vile
are the deities of HOMER and HESIOD, in
comparison of this JEHOVAH of the
illiterate Jews ; before whom, to use this
poet’s own words, all other Gods are “ as a
drop

“drop of a bucket, and are counted as the
“small dust of the balance.”

Had I been acquainted with this wonderful volume, while I was writing my treatise on the PATHETIC, I could have enriched my work with many strokes of eloquence, more irresistibly moving than any I have borrowed from our three great tragedians, or even from the tender SIMONIDES himself. The same MOSES I formerly mentioned, relates the history of a youth sold into captivity by his brethren, in a manner so deeply interesting, with so many little strokes of nature and passion, with such penetrating knowledge of the human heart, with such various and unexpected changes of fortune, and with such a striking and important discovery, as cannot be read without astonishment and tears ; and which I am almost confident ARISTOTLE would have preferred to the story of his admired OEDIPOS, for the artificial manner in which he recognition, *αναγνώρισις*, is effected, emerging gradually from the incidents and circumstances of the story itself, and not from things extrinsical and unessential to the fable.

In

In another part we are presented with the picture of a man most virtuous and upright, who for the trial and exercise of his fortitude and patience, is hurled down from the summits of felicity, into the lowest depths of distress and despair. Were ever sorrow and misery and compassion expressed more forcibly and feelingly, than by the behaviour of his friends, who when they first discovered him in this altered condition, destitute, afflicted, tormented, “sat down with him upon the ground seven days, and seven nights;” “and none spake a word unto him, for they saw that his grief was very great.” Let us candidly confess, that this noble passage is equal, if not superior to that celebrated description of parental sorrow in *Æschylus*; where that venerable father of tragedy, whose fire and enthusiasm sometimes force him forwards to the very borders of improbability, has in this instance justly represented *Niobe* sitting disconsolately three days together upon the tomb of her children, covered with a veil, and observing a profound silence. Such silences are something more affecting, and more strongly expressive of passion, than the most artful speeches. In

SOPHOCLES,

SOPHOCLES, when the unfortunate DEIANIRA discovers her mistake in having sent a poisoned vestment to her husband HERCULES, her surprize and sorrow are unspeakable, and she answers not her son who acquaints her with the disaster, but goes off the stage without uttering a syllable. A writer unacquainted with nature and the heart, would have put into her mouth twenty florid lămbics, in which she would bitterly have bewailed her misfortunes, and informed the spectators that she was going to die.

In representing likewise the desolation and destruction of the cities of *Babylon* and *Tyre*, these Jewish writers have afforded many instances of true pathos. One of them expresses the extreme distress occasioned by a famine, by this moving circumstance: "The tongue of the sucking child
"cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst;
"the young children ask bread, and no man
"breaketh it unto them; the hands of
"the pitiful women have sodden their own
"children." Which tender and affecting stroke reminds me of the picture of a sacked city by ARISTIDES the Theban, on which we have so often gazed with inexpressible

delight : that great artist has expressed the concern of a bleeding and dying mother, lest her infant, who is creeping to her side, should lick the blood that flows from her breast, and mistake it for her milk.

In the ninth Book of the Iliad, HOMER represents the horrors of a conquered city, by saying that her heroes should be slain, her palaces overthrown, her matrons ravished, and her whole race enslaved. But one of these Jewish poets, by a single circumstance, has far more emphatically pointed out the utter desolation of Babylon : “ I will make
“ a man more precious than fine gold : even
“ a single person than the golden wedge of
“ Ophir.”

What seems to be particularly excellent in these writers, is their selection of such adjuncts and circumstances upon each subject, as are best calculated to strike the imagination and embellish their descriptions. Thus, they think it not enough to say “ that
“ Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, shall
“ never more be inhabited ;” but they add a picturesque stroke, “ neither shall the
“ Arabian pitch his tent there : the wild
“ beasts of the island shall cry in their deso-
“ late

"late houses, and dragons in their pleasant
"places."

You have heard me frequently observe, how much visions, or images, by which a writer seems to behold objects that are absent, or even non-existent, contribute to the true sublime. For this reason I have ever admired Minerva's speech in the fifth book of the Iliad, where she tells her favourite Diomede, "that she will purge his eyes
"from the mists of mortality, and give him
"power clearly to discern the gods that
"were at that time assisting the Trojans,
"that he might not be guilty of the impiety
"of wounding any of the celestial beings, Venus excepted." Observe the superior strength and liveliness of the following image: "Jehovah," the tutelar God of the Jews "opened the eyes of the young man,
"and he saw; and behold, the mountain
"was full of horses, and chariots of fire
"round about him!"

Do we start, and tremble, and turn pale, when ORESTES exclaims that the furies are rushing forward to seize him; and shall we be less affected with the writer, who breaks out into the following question?

D 2

"Who

“ Who is this that cometh from Edom
“ with dyed garments from Bosra ; this that is
“ glorious in his apparel, travelling in the
“ greatness of his strength ? ” — It is the aveng-
ing God of the oppressed Jews, whom the poet
imagines he beholds, and whose answer fol-
lows, “ I that am mighty to save.” “ Where-
fore,” resumes the poet, “ art thou red in
“ thine apparel, and thy garments like him
“ that treadeth in the wine-fat ? ” “ I have
“ trodden the wine-press alone,” answers
the God ; “ and of the people there were
“ none with me : for I will tread them in
“ mine anger and trample them in my fury,
“ and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my
“ garments, and I will stain all my raiment.”
Another writer, full of the idea of that
destruction with which his country was
threatened, cries out, “ How long shall I
“ see the standard, and hear the sound of
“ the trumpet ! ” And to represent total deso-
lation, he imagines he sees the universe re-
duced to its primitive chaos ; “ I beheld
“ the earth, and lo ! it was without form
“ and void ; and the heavens, and they had
“ no light.”

Above

Above all, I am marvellously struck with the beauty and boldness of the PROSOPOPÆIAS, and the rich variety of comparisons, with which every page of these extraordinary writings abound. When I shall have pointed out a few of these to your view, I shall think your curiosity will be sufficiently excited to peruse the book itself from which they are drawn. And do not suffer yourself to be prejudiced against it, by the reproaches, raillery, and satire, which I know my friend and disciple PORPHYRY is perpetually pouring upon the Jews.

Farewell.

Z

N^o 52. SATURDAY, May 5, 1753.

—*Hæ nugæ seria ducent
In mala derisum.*

HOR.

—Trifles such as these
To serious mischiefs lead.

FRANCIS.

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

THOUGH there are many calamities to which all men are equally exposed, yet some species of intellectual distress are thought to be peculiar to the vicious. The various evils of disease and poverty, pain and sorrow, are frequently derived from others; but shame and confusion are supposed to proceed from ourselves, and to be incurred only by the misconduct which they punish. This supposition is indeed specious; but I am convinced by the strongest evidence that it is not true: I can oppose experience to theory; and as it will appear that I suffer considerable loss by my testimony, it must be allowed to have the

the most distinguishing characteristic of sincerity.

That every man is happy in proportion as he is virtuous, was once my favourite principle : I advanced and defended it in all companies ; and as the last effort of my genius in its behalf, I contrived a series of events by which it was illustrated and established : and that I might substitute action for narrative, and decorate sentiment with the beauties of poetry, I regulated my story by the rules of the drama, and with great application and labour wrought it into a tragedy.

When it was finished, I sat down like Hercules after his labours, exulting in the past, and enjoying the future by anticipation. I read it to every friend who favoured me with a visit, and when I went abroad I always put it into my pocket. Thus it became known to a circle that was always increasing ; and was at length mentioned with such commendation to a very great lady, that she was pleased to favour me with a message, by which I was invited to breakfast at nine the next morning, and acquainted

that a select company would then expect the pleasure of hearing me read my play.

The delight that I received from the contemplation of my performance, the encomium of my friends, and especially this message, was in my opinion an experimental proof of my principles, and a reward of my merit. I reflected with great self-complacence, upon the general complaint that genius was without patronage ; and concluded that all who had been neglected were unworthy of notice. I believed that my own elevation was not only certain but near ; and that the representation of my play would be secured by a message to the manager, which would render the mortifying drudgery of solicitation and attendance unnecessary.

Elated with these expectations, I rose early in the morning, and being dressed long before it was time to set out, I amused myself by repeating the favourite passages of my tragedy aloud, forming polite answers to the compliments that should be made me, and adjusting the ceremony of my visit.

I observed the time appointed with such punctuality, that I knocked at the door
while

while the clock was striking. Orders had been given for my admittance ; and the porter being otherwise engaged, it happened that the servant whose place it was to introduce me, opened the door in his stead, and upon hearing my name, advanced directly before me into the room ; so that no discovery was made of an enormous queue of brown paper, which some mischievous brat had with a crooked pin hung between the two locks of my major perriwig. I followed the valet into a magnificent apartment, where after I had got within a very large Indian screen, I found five ladies and a gentleman.

I was a little disconcerted in my first address, by the respect that was shewn me, and the curiosity with which I was regarded : however, I made my general obeisance, and addressing myself in particular to the elder of the ladies, whom I considered as my patroness, I expressed my sense of the honour she had done me in a short speech which I had preconceived for the purpose ; but I was immediately informed, that the lady whose favour I had acknowledged was not yet come down ; this mistake increased my confusion ;

confusion ; for as I could not again repeat the same words, I reflected, that I should be at last unprepared for the occasion on which they were to have been used. The company all this while continued standing : I therefore hastily turned about, to reconnoitre my chair ; but the moment I was seated, I perceived every one labouring to stifle a laugh. I instantly suspected that I had committed some ridiculous indecorum, and I attempted to apologize for I knew not what offence ; but after some hesitation my extreme sensibility struck me speechless. The gentleman, however, kindly discovered the cause of their merriment, by exclaiming against the rude licentiousness of the vulgar, and at the same time taking from behind me the pendulous reproach to the honours of my head. This discovery afforded me inexpressible relief ; my paper ramellie was thrown into the fire, and I joined in the laugh which it produced : but I was still embarrassed by the consequences of my mistake, and expected the lady by whom I had been invited, with solicitude and apprehension.

When

When she came in, the deference with which she was treated by persons who were so much my superiors, struck me with awe: my powers of recollection were suspended, and I resolved to express my sentiments only by the lowness of my bow and the distance of my behaviour: I therefore hastily retreated backward; and at the same time bowing with the most profound reverence, unhappily overturned the screen, which in its fall threw down the breakfast table, broke all the china, and crippled the lap dog. In the midst of this ruin I stood torpid in silence and amazement, stunned with the shrieks of the ladies, the yelling of the dog, and the clattering of the china: and while I considered myself as the author of such complicated mischief, I believe I felt as keen anguish as he who with an halter about his neck looks up, while the other end of it is fastened to a gibbet.

The screen, however, was soon replaced, and the broken china removed; and though the dog was the principal object of attention, yet the lady sometimes adverted to me: she politely desired that I would consider the accident as of no consequence; the china, she

she said, was a trifle, and she hoped Pompey was more frightened than hurt. I made some apology, but with great confusion and incoherence : at length, however, we were again seated, and breakfast was brought in.

I was extremely mortified to perceive, that the discourse turned wholly upon the virtues of Pompey, and the consequences of his hurt : it was examined with great attention and solicitude, and found to be a rasure of the skin the whole length of one of his fore-legs. After some topical application, his cushion was placed in the corner by his lady, upon which he lay down, and indeed whined piteously.

I was beginning to recover from my perplexity, and had just made an attempt to introduce a new subject of conversation, when casting my eye downward I was again thrown into extreme confusion, by seeing something hang from the fore-part of my chair, which I imagined to be a portion of my shirt ; though indeed it was no other than the corner of a napkin on which I sat, and which, during the confusion produced by the fall of the screen, had been left in the chair.

My

My embarrassment was soon discovered, though the cause was mistaken ; and the lady hoping to remove it, by giving me an opportunity to display my abilities without the restraint of ceremony, requested that I would now give her the pleasure which she had impatiently expected, and read my play.

My play, therefore, I was obliged to produce, and having found an opportunity hastily to button up the corner of the napkin while the manuscript lay open in my lap, I began to read ; and though my voice was at first languid, tremulous, and irresolute, yet my attention was at length drawn from my situation to my subject ; I pronounced with greater emphasis and propriety, and I began to watch for the effects which I expected to produce upon my auditors ; but I was extremely mortified to find, that whenever I paused to give room for a remark or an encomium, the interval was filled with an ejaculation of pity for the dog, who still continued to whine upon his cushion, and was lamented in these affectionate and pathetic terms——“ Ah !
“ poor, dear, pretty, little creature,”

It

It happened, however, that by some incidents in the fourth act the passions were apparently interested, and I was just exulting in my success, when the lady who sat next me unhappily opening her snuff box, which was not effected without some difficulty, the dust that flew up threw me into a fit of sneezing, which instantly caused my upper lip to put me again out of countenance : I therefore hastily felt for my handkerchief, and it was not with less emotion than if I had seen a ghost, that I discovered it had been picked out of my pocket. In the mean time the opprobrious effusion descended like an icicle to my chin ; and the eyes of the company, which this accident had drawn upon me, were now turned away, with looks which shewed that their pity was not proof against the ridicule of my distress. What I suffered at this moment, can neither be expressed or conceived : I turned my head this way and that in the anguish of my mind, without knowing what I sought ; and at last holding up my manuscript before my face, I was compelled to make use of the end of my neckcloth, which I again buttoned into my bosom. After many painful

ful efforts I proceeded in my lecture, and again fixed the attention of my hearers. The fourth act was finished, and they expressed great impatience to hear the catastrophe : I therefore began the fifth with fresh confidence and vigour ; but before I had read a page, I was interrupted by two gentlemen of great quality, professors of Buckism, who came with a design to wait upon the ladies to an auction.

I rose up with the rest of the company when they came in ; but what was my astonishment, to perceive the napkin, which I had unfortunately secured by one corner, hang down from my waist to the ground ! From this dilemma, however, I was delivered by the noble Buck who stood nearest to me ; who swearing an oath of astonishment, twitched the napkin from me, and throwing it to the servant, told him that he had redeemed it from the rats, who were dragging it by degrees into a place where he would never have looked for it. The young ladies were scarce less confounded at this accident than I ; and the noble matron herself was somewhat disconcerted : she saw my extreme confusion ; and thought fit to apologize

logize for her cousin's behaviour: "He is
"a wild boy, Sir," says she, "he plays
"these tricks with every body; but it is
"his way, and no body minds it." When
we were once more seated, the Bucks, upon
the peremptory refusal of the ladies to go out,
declared they would stay and hear the last
act of my tragedy; I was therefore requested
to go on. But my spirits were quite exhausted
by the violent agitation of my mind; and I
was intimidated by the presence of two per-
sons, who appeared to consider me and my
performance as objects only of merriment and
sport. I would gladly have renounced all
that in the morning had been the object of
my hope, to recover the dignity which I
had already lost in my own estimation;
and had scarce any wish but to return without
further disgrace into the quiet shade of
obscurity. The ladies, however, would take
no denial, and I was at length obliged to
comply.

I was much pleased and surprised at the
attention with which my new auditors seem-
ed to listen as I went on: the dog was now
silent; I increased the pathos of my voice
in proportion as I ascended the climax of
distress

distress, and flattered myself that poetry and truth would be still victorious: but just at this crisis, the gentleman, who had disengaged me from the napkin, desired me to stop half a moment; something, he said, had just started into his mind, which if he did not communicate he might forget: then turning to his companion, "Jack" says he, "there was sold in Smithfield no longer ago than last Saturday, the largest ox that I ever beheld in my life." The ridicule of this malicious apostrophe was so striking, that pity and decorum gave way, and my patroness herself burst into laughter: upon me, indeed, it produced a very different effect: for if I had been detected in an unsuccessful attempt to pick a pocket, I could not have felt more shame, confusion and anguish. The laughter into which the company had been surprized, was, however, immediately suppressed, and a severe censure passed upon the person who produced it. To atone for the mortification which I had suffered, the ladies expressed the utmost impatience to hear the conclusion, and I was encouraged by repeated encomiums to proceed; but though I once more attempted to

recollect myself, and again began the speech in which I had been interrupted, yet my thoughts were still distracted; my voice faltered, and I had scarce breath to finish the first period.

This was remarked by my tormentor the Buck, who suddenly snatched the manuscript out of my hands, declared that I did not do my play justice, and that he would finish it himself. He then began to read; but the affected gravity of his countenance, the unnatural tone of his voice, and the remembrance of his late anecdote of the ox, excited sensations that were incompatible both with pity and terror, and rendered me extremely wretched by keeping the company perpetually on the brink of laughter.

In the action of my play, virtue had been sustained by her own dignity, and exulted in the enjoyment of intellectual and independent happiness, during a series of external calamities that terminated in death; and vice, by the success of her own projects, had been betrayed into shame, perplexity, and confusion. These events were indeed natural; and therefore I poetically inferred, with all the confidence of demonstration,
that

that "the torments of Tartarus, and the
 "felicity of Elysium, were not necessary to
 "the justification of the Gods ; since what-
 "ever inequality might be pretended in the
 "distribution of externals, peace is still
 "the prerogative of virtue, and intellectual
 "misery can be inflicted only by guilt."

But the intellectual misery which I suffered at the very moment when this favourite sentiment was read, produced an irresistible conviction that it was false ; because except the dread of that punishment which I had indirectly denied, I felt all the torment that could be inflicted by guilt. In the prosecution of an undertaking which I believed to be virtuous, peace had been driven from my heart, by the concurrence of accident with the vices of others ; and the misery that I suffered, suddenly propagated itself : for not only enjoyment but hope was now at an end ; my play, upon which both had depended, was overturned from its foundation ; and I was so much affected that I took my leave with the abrupt haste of distress and perplexity. I had no concern about what should be said of me when I was departed ; and, perhaps, at the moment

when I went out of the house, there was not in the world any human being more wretched than myself. The next morning, when I reflected coolly upon these events, I would willingly have reconciled my experience with my principles, even at the expence of my morals. I would have supposed that my desire of approbation was inordinate, and that a virtuous indifference about the opinion of others would have prevented all my distress; but I was compelled to acknowledge, that to acquire this indifference was not possible, and that no man becomes vicious by not effecting impossibilities: there may be heights of virtue beyond our reach: but to be vicious, we must either do something from which we have power to abstain, or neglect something which we have power to do: there remained, therefore, no expedient to recover any part of the credit I had lost, but setting a truth which I had newly discovered by means so extraordinary, in a new light; and with this view I am a candidate for a place in the ADVENTURER,

I am, SIR, your's, &c.

DRAMATICUS.

Nº

N^o 53. TUESDAY, May 8, 1753.

Quisque suos patimur manes.

VIRG.

Each has his lot, and bears the fate he drew.

S I R,

Fleet, May 6.

I N consequence of my engagements, I address you once more from the habitations of misery. In this place, from which business and pleasure are equally excluded, and in which our only employment and diversion is to hear the narratives of each other, I might much sooner have gathered materials for a letter, had I not hoped to have been reminded of my promise; but since I find myself placed in the regions of oblivion, where I am no less neglected by you than by the rest of mankind, I resolved no longer to wait for solicitation, but stole early this evening from between gloomy sullenness and riotous merriment, to give you an account of part of my companions.

One of the most eminent members of our club is Mr. EDWARD SCAMPER, a man of whose name the Olympic heroes would

E 3

not

not have been ashamed. NED was born to a small estate, which he determined to improve ; and therefore, as soon as he became of age, mortgaged part of his land to buy a mare and stallion, and bred horses for the course. He was at first very successful, and gained several of the king's plates, as he is now every day boasting, at the expence of very little more than ten times their value. At last, however, he discovered, that victory brought him more honour than profit ; resolving, therefore, to be rich as well as illustrious, he replenished his pockets by another mortgage, became on a sudden a daring Better, and resolving not to trust a jockey with his fortune, rode his horse himself, distanced two of his competitors the first heat, and at last won the race, by forcing his horse on a descent to full speed at the hazard of his neck. His estate was thus repaired, and some friends that had no souls advised him to give over ; but NED now knew the way to riches, and therefore without caution increased his expences. From this hour he talked and dreamed of nothing but a horse race ; and rising soon to the summit of equestrian reputation, he was constantly

constantly expected on every course, divided all his time between lords and jockies, and, as the unexperienced regulated their betts by his example, gained a great deal of money by laying openly on one horse and secretly on the other. NED was now so sure of growing rich, that he involved his estate in a third mortgage, borrowed money of all his friends, and risked his whole fortune upon Bay-Lincoln. He remounted with beating heart, started fair, won the first heat; but in the second, as he was pushing against the foremost of his rivals, his girth broke, his shoulder was dislocated, and before he was dismissed by the surgeon, two bailiffs fastened upon him, and he saw Newmarket no more. His daily amusement for four years has been to blow the signal for starting, to make imaginary matches, to repeat the pedigree of Bay-Lincoln, and to form resolutions against trusting another groom with the choice of his girth.

The next in seniority is Mr. TIMOTHY SNUG, a man of deep contrivance and impenetrable secrecy. His father died with the reputation of more wealth than he possessed: TIM, therefore, entered the world with a

reputed fortune of ten thousand pounds. Of this he very well knew that eight thousand was imaginary : but being a man of refined policy, and knowing how much honour is annexed to riches, he resolved never to detect his own poverty ; but furnished his house with elegance, scattered his money with profusion, encouraged every scheme of costly pleasure, spoke of petty losses with negligence, and on the day before an execution entered his doors, had proclaimed at a public table his resolution to be jolted no longer in a hackney coach.

Another of my companions is the magnanimous JACK SCATTER, the son of a country gentleman, who having no other care than to leave him rich, considered that literature could not be had without expence ; masters would not teach for nothing ; and when a book was bought and read, it would sell for little. JACK was, therefore, taught to read and write by the butler ; and when this acquisition was made, was left to pass his days in the kitchen and the stable, where he heard no crime censured but covetousness and distrust of poor honest servants, and where all the praise was bestowed on good
house-

housekeeping and a free heart. At the death of his father, JACK set himself to retrieve the honour of his family: he abandoned his cellar to the butler, ordered his groom to provide hay and corn at discretion, took his housekeeper's word for the expences of the kitchen, allowed all his servants to do their work by deputies, permitted his domestics to keep his house open to their relations and acquaintance, and in ten years was conveyed hither, without having purchased by the loss of his patrimony either honour or pleasure, or obtained any other gratification than that of having corrupted the neighbouring villagers by luxury and idleness.

DICK SERGE was a draper in Cornhill, and passed eight years in prosperous diligence, without any care but to keep his books, or any ambition but to be in time an alderman; but then, by some unaccountable revolution in his understanding, he became enamoured of wit and humour, despised the conversation of pedlars and stockjobbers, and rambled every night to the regions of gaiety, in quest of company suited to his taste. The wits at first flocked about him for sport, and
after-

afterwards for interest ; some found their way into his books, and some into his pockets ; the man of adventure was equipped from his shop for the pursuit of a fortune ; and he had sometimes the honour to have his security accepted when his friends were in distress. Elated with these associations he soon learned to neglect his shop ; and having drawn his money out of the funds, to avoid the necessity of teasing men of honour for trifling debts, he has been forced at last to retire hither, till his friends can procure him a post at court.

Another that joins in the same mess is BOB CORNICE, whose life has been spent in fitting up a house. About ten years ago BOB purchased the country habitation of a bankrupt : the mere shell of a building, BOB holds no great matter, the inside is the test of elegance. Of this house he was no sooner master than he summoned twenty workmen to his assistance, tore up the floors and laid them anew, stripped off the wainscot, drew the windows from their frames, altered the disposition of doors and fire-places, and cast the whole fabrick into a new form ; his next care was to have his ceilings painted, his
pannels

pannels gilt, and his chimney pieces carved: every thing was executed by the ablest hands: BOB's business was to follow the workmen with a microscope, and call upon them to retouch their performances, and heighten excellence to perfection. The reputation of his house now brings round him a daily confluence of visitants, and every one tells him of some elegance which he has hitherto overlooked, some convenience not yet procured, or some new mode in ornament or furniture. BOB, who had no wish but to be admired, nor any guide but the fashion, thought every thing beautiful in proportion as it was new, and considered his work as unfinished, while any observer could suggest an addition; some alteration was therefore every day made, without any other motive than the charms of novelty. A traveller at last suggested to him the convenience of a grotto: BOB immediately ordered the mount of his garden to be excavated; and having laid out a large sum in shells and minerals, was busy in regulating the disposition of the colours and lustres, when two gentlemen, who had asked permission to see his gardens, presented him
a writ,

a writ, and led him off to less elegant apartments.

I know not, Sir, whether among this fraternity of sorrow you will think any much to be pitied; nor indeed do many of them appear to solicit compassion, for they generally applaud their own conduct, and despise those whom want of taste or spirit suffers to grow rich. It were happy if the prisons of the kingdom were filled only with characters like these, men whom prosperity could not make useful, and whom ruin cannot make wise: but there are among us many who raise different sensations, many that owe their present misery to the seductions of treachery, the strokes of casualty, or the tenderness of pity; many whose sufferings disgrace society, and whose virtues would adorn it: of these, when familiarity shall have enabled me to recount their stories without horror, you may expect another narrative from,

S I R,

T

Your most humble servant,

MISARGYRUS.

No 54. SATURDAY, May 12, 1753.

——— *Sensim labefacta cadebat**Religio*———

CLAUDIANUS.

——— His confidence in heav'n

Sunk by degrees———

IF a recluse moralist, who speculates in a cloyster, should suppose every practice to be infamous in proportion as it is allowed to be criminal, no man would wonder : but every man who is acquainted with life, and is able to substitute the discoveries of experience for the deductions of reason, knows that he would be mistaken.

Lying is generally allowed to be less criminal than adultery ; and yet it is known to render a man much more infamous and contemptible ; for he who would modestly acquiesce in an imputation of adultery as a compliment, would resent that of a lie as an insult for which life only could atone. Thus are men tamely led hoodwinked by custom, the creature of their own folly, and while imaginary light flashes under the bandage which

which excludes the reality, they fondly believe that they behold the sun.

Lying, however, does not incur more infamy than it deserves, though other vices incur less. I have before remarked, that there are some practices, which, though they degrade a man to the lowest class of moral characters, do yet imply some natural superiority; but lying is, on the contrary, always an implication of weakness and defect. Slander is the revenge of a coward, and dissimulation his defence; lying boasts are the stigma of impotent ambition, of obscurity without merit, and pride totally destitute of intellectual dignity: and even lies of apology imply indiscretion or rusticity, ignorance, folly, or indecorum.

But there is equal turpitude, and yet greater meanness, in those forms of speech which deceive without direct falsehood. The crime is committed with greater deliberation, as it requires more contrivance; and by the offenders the use of language is totally perverted: they conceal a meaning opposite to that which they express; their speech is a kind of riddle propounded for an evil purpose; and as they may, therefore, be properly

perly distinguished by the name of Sphinxes, there would not perhaps be much cause for regret, if, like the first monster of the name, they should break their necks upon the solution of their enigmas.

Indirect lies more effectually than others destroy that mutual confidence, which is said to be the band of society : they are more frequently repeated, because they are not prevented by the dread of detection : and he who has obtained a virtuous character is not always believed, because we know not but that he may have been persuaded by the sophistry of folly, that to deceive is not to lie, and that there is a certain manner in which truth may be violated without incurring either guilt or shame.

But lying, however practised, does, like every other vice, ultimately disappoint its own purpose : " A lying tongue is but for " a moment." Detraction, when it is discovered to be false, confers honour, and dissimulation provokes resentment ; the false apology aggravates the offence.

Is it not therefore, astonishing, that a practice, for whatever reason, so universally infamous and unsuccessful, should not be more generally

generally and scrupulously avoided ? To think, is to renounce it : and, that I may fix the attention of my readers a little longer upon the subject, I shall relate a story, which, perhaps, by those who have much sensibility, will not soon be forgotten.

CHARLOTTE and MARIA were educated together at an eminent boarding-school near London : there was little difference in their age, and their personal accomplishments were equal : but though their families were of the same rank, yet as CHARLOTTE was an only child, she was considerably superior in fortune.

Soon after they were taken home, CHARLOTTE was addressed by CAPTAIN FREEMAN, who, besides his commission in the guards, had a small paternal estate : but as her friends hoped for a more advantageous match, the CAPTAIN was desired to forbear his visits, and the lady to think of him no more. After some fruitless struggles they acquiesced ; but the discontent of both was so apparent, that it was thought expedient to remove Miss into the country. She was sent to her aunt, the Lady MEADOWS, who, with her daughter, lived retired

ired at the family seat, more than one hundred miles distant from the metropolis. After she had repined in this dreary solitude from April to August, she was surprised with a visit from her father, who brought with him Sir JAMES FORREST, a young gentleman who had just succeeded to a baronet's title, and a very large estate in the same county. Sir JAMES had good-nature and good-sense, an agreeable person, and an easy address: Miss was insensibly pleased with his company; her vanity, if not her love had a new object; a desire to be delivered from a state of dependence and obscurity had almost absorbed all the rest; and it is no wonder that this desire was gratified, when scarce any other was felt; or that in compliance with the united solicitations of her friends, and her lover, she suffered herself within a few weeks to become a lady and a wife. They continued in the country till the beginning of October, and then came up to London, having prevailed upon her aunt to accompany them, that Miss MEADOWS, with whom the bride had contracted an intimate friendship, might be gratified

with the diversions of the town during the winter.

Captain FREEMAN, when he heard that Miss CHARLOTTE was married, immediately made proposals of marriage to MARIA, with whom he became acquainted during his visits to her friend, and soon after married her.

The friendship of the two young ladies seemed to be rather increased than diminished by their marriage; they were always of the same party both in the private and public diversions of the season, and visited each other without the formalities of messages and drefs.

But neither Sir JAMES nor Mrs. FREEMAN could reflect without uneasiness upon the frequent interviews which this familiarity and confidence produced between a lover and his mistress, whom force only had divided; and though of these interviews they were themselves witnesses, yet Sir JAMES insensibly became jealous of his lady, and Mrs. FREEMAN of her husband.

It happened in the May following, that Sir JAMES went about ten miles out of town to be present at the election of a member of parliament

parliament for the county, and was not expected to return till the next day. In the evening his lady took a chair and visited Mrs. FREEMAN : the rest of the company went away early, the CAPTAIN was upon guard; Sir JAMES was out of town, and the two ladies after supper sat down to piquet, and continued the game without once reflecting upon the hour till three in the morning. Lady FORREST would then have gone home; but Mrs. FREEMAN, perhaps chiefly to conceal a contrary desire, importuned her to stay till the CAPTAIN came in, and at length with some reluctance she consented.

About five the CAPTAIN came home, and Lady FORREST immediately sent out for a chair : a chair, as it happened could not be procured : but a hackney-coach being brought in its stead, the CAPTAIN insisted upon waiting on her ladyship home. This she refused with some emotion ; it is probable that she still regarded the CAPTAIN with less indifference than she wished, and was therefore more sensible of the impropriety of his offer : but her reasons for rejecting it, however forcible, being such as she could not alledge,

he persisted, and her resolution was overborne. By this importunate complaisance the CAPTAIN had not only thrown Lady FORREST into confusion, but displeased his wife: she could not, however, without unpoliteness oppose it; and lest her uneasiness should be discovered, she affected a negligence which in some degree revenged it: she desired that when he came back he would not disturb her, for that she should go directly to bed; and added, with a kind of drowsy insensibility, "I am more than half asleep already."

Lady FORREST and the CAPTAIN were to go from the Haymarket to Grosvenor Square. It was about half an hour after five when they got into the coach; the morning was remarkably fine, the late contest had shaken off all disposition to sleep, and Lady FORREST could not help saying, that she had much rather take a walk in the Park than go home to bed. The CAPTAIN zealously expressed the same sentiment, and proposed that the coach should set them down at St. James's Gate. The lady, however, had nearly the same objections against being seen in the Mall without any other company

company than the CAPTAIN, that she had against its being known that they were alone together in a hackney-coach: she, therefore, to extricate herself from this second difficulty, proposed that they should call at her father's in Bond street, and take her cousin MEADOWS, whom she knew to be an early riser with them. This project was immediately put in execution; but Lady FORREST found her cousin indisposed with a cold. When she had communicated the design of this early visit, Miss MEADOWS intreated her to give up her walk in the Park, to stay till the family rose, and go home after breakfast; "No," replied Lady FORREST, "I am determined upon a walk; but as "I must first get rid of Captain FREEMAN, "I will send down word that I will take "your advice." A servant was accordingly dispatched to acquaint the CAPTAIN, who was waiting below, that Miss MEADOWS was indisposed and had engaged Lady FORREST to breakfast.

N^o. 55. TUESDAY, May 15, 1753.

*Quid quisque vitet, nunquam homini satis.
Cautum est in horas.*

HOR.

While dangers hourly round us rise,
No caution guards us from surprize.

FRANCIS.

THE CAPTAIN discharged the coach ; but being piqued at the behaviour of his wife, and feeling that flow of spirits which usually returns with the morning, even to those who have not slept in the night, he had no desire to go home, and therefore resolved to enjoy the fine morning in the Park alone.

Lady FORREST, not doubting but that the CAPTAIN would immediately return home, congratulated herself upon her deliverance ; but at the same time to indulge her desire of a walk, followed him into the Park.

The CAPTAIN had reached the top of the Mall, and turning back met her before she had advanced two hundred yards beyond the palace. The moment she perceived him, the remembrance of her message, the motives

tives that produced it, the detection of its falsehood, and discovery of its design, her disappointment and consciousness of that very situation which she had so much reason to avoid, all concurred to cover her with confusion which it was impossible to hide: pride and good breeding were, however, still predominant over truth and prudence, she was still zealous to remove from the CAPTAIN'S mind any suspicion of a design to shun him, and, therefore, with an effort perhaps equal to that of a hero who smiles upon the rack, she affected an air of gaiety, said she was glad to see him, and as an excuse for her message and her conduct, prattled something about the fickleness of woman's mind, and concluded with observing, that she changed her's too often ever to be mad. By this conduct a retreat was rendered impossible, and they walked together till between eight and nine: but the clouds having insensibly gathered, and a sudden shower falling just as they reached Spring-Gardens, they went out instead of going back: and the CAPTAIN having put the lady into a chair took his leave.

It happened that Sir JAMES, contrary to his first purpose, had returned from his journey at night. He learnt from the servants, that his lady was gone to Captain FREEMAN's, and was secretly displeased that she had made this visit when he was absent; an incident, which, however trifling in itself, was by the magic of jealousy swelled into importance; yet upon recollection he reproved himself for this displeasure, since the presence of the CAPTAIN's lady would sufficiently secure the honour of his own. While he was struggling with these suspicions, they increased both in number and strength in proportion as the night wore away. At one he went to bed: but he passed the night in agonies of terror and resentment, doubting whether the absence of his lady was the effect of accident or design, listening to every noise, and bewildering himself in a multitude of extravagant suppositions. He rose again at break of day and after several hours of suspense and irresolution, whether to wait the issue, or go out for intelligence, the restlessness of curiosity prevailed, and about eight he set out for Captain FREEMAN's; but left word with

with his servants, that he was gone to a neighbouring coffee-house.

Mrs. FREEMAN, whose affected indifference and dissimulation of a design to go immediately to bed, contributed to prevent the CAPTAIN's return, had during his absence suffered inexpressible disquiet ; she had indeed, neither intention to go to bed, nor inclination to sleep ; she walked backward and forward in her chamber, distracted with jealousy and suspense, till she was informed that Sir JAMES was below, and desired to see her. When she came down, he discovered that she had been in tears ; his fear was now more alarmed than his jealousy, and he concluded that some fatal accident had befallen his wife ; but he soon learnt that she and the CAPTAIN had gone from thence at five in the morning, and that he was not yet returned. Mrs. FREEMAN, by Sir JAMES's enquiry, knew that his lady had not been at home : her suspicions, therefore, were confirmed : and in her jealousy, which to prevent a duel she laboured to conceal, Sir JAMES found new cause for his own. He determined, however, to wait with as much decency as possible, till the CAPTAIN

TAIN came in ; and perhaps two persons were never more embarrassed by the presence of each other. While breakfast was getting ready, Dr. TATTLE came to pay Mrs. FREEMAN a morning visit ; and to the unspeakable grief both of the lady and her guest was immediately admitted. Doctor TATTLE is one of those male gossips who in the common opinion are the most diverting company in the world. The Doctor saw that Mrs. FREEMAN was low-spirited, and made several efforts to divert her, but without success : at last he declared with an air of ironical importance, that he could tell her such news as would make her look grave for something : “ The CAPTAIN,” says he, “ has just huddled a lady into a “ chair, at the door of a bagnio near Spring- “ Gardens.” He soon perceived, that this speech was received with emotions very different from those he intended to produce ; and, therefore, added, “ that she need not “ however, be jealous ; for notwithstanding “ the manner in which he had related the in- “ cident, the lady was certainly a woman of “ character, as he instantly discovered by her “ mien and appearance :” This particular confirmed

confirmed the suspicion it was intended to remove ; and the Doctor finding that he was not so good company as usual, took his leave, but was met at the door by the CAPTAIN, who brought him back. His presence, however insignificant, imposed some restraint upon the rest of the company ; and Sir JAMES, with as good an appearance of jocularity as he could assume, asked the CAPTAIN, " What he had done with his wife." The CAPTAIN, with some irresolution, replied, that " he had left her early in the " morning at her father's ; and that having " made a point of waiting on her home, she " sent word down that her cousin MEADOWS was indisposed, and had engaged " her to breakfast." The CAPTAIN, who knew nothing of the anecdote that had been communicated by the doctor, judged by appearances that it was prudent thus indirectly to lie, by concealing the truth both from Sir JAMES and his wife : he supposed, indeed, that Sir JAMES would immediately enquire after his wife at her father's, and learn that she did not stay there to breakfast ; but as it would not follow that they had been together, he left her to account for her absence

as

as she thought fit, taking for granted that what he had concealed she also would conceal, for the same reasons ; or, if she did not, as he had affirmed nothing contrary to truth, he might pretend to have concealed it in jest. Sir JAMES, as soon as he had received this intelligence, took his leave with some appearance of satisfaction, and was followed by the Doctor.

As soon as Mrs. FREEMAN and the CAPTAIN were alone, she questioned him with great earnestness about the lady whom he had been seen to put into a chair. When he had heard that this incident had been related in the presence of Sir JAMES, he was greatly alarmed lest lady FORREST should increase his suspicions, by attempting to conceal that which, by a series of enquiry to which he was now stimulated, he would probably discover : he condemned this conduct in himself, and, as the most effectual means at once to quiet the mind of his wife and obtain her assistance, he told her all that had happened, and his apprehension of the consequences : he also urged her to go directly to Miss MEADOWS, by whom his account would be confirmed, and of whom she

she might learn further intelligence of Sir JAMES ; and to find some way to acquaint lady FORREST with her danger, and admonish her to conceal nothing.

Mrs. FREEMAN was convinced of the CAPTAIN's sincerity, not only by the advice which he urged her to give to lady FORREST, but by the consistency of the story and the manner in which he was affected. Her jealousy was changed into pity for her friend, and apprehension for her husband. She hastened to Miss MEADOWS and learnt that Sir JAMES had enquired of the servant for his lady, and was told that she had been there early with Captain FREEMAN, but went away soon after him : she related to Miss MEADOWS all that had happened, and thinking it at least possible that Sir JAMES might not go directly home, she wrote the following letter to his lady :

“ My Dear Lady FORREST,

“ I am in the utmost distress for you. Sir
 “ JAMES has suspicions which truth only
 “ can remove, and of which my indiscretion
 “ is the cause. If I had not concealed my
 “ desire of the CAPTAIN's return, your de-
 sign

“ sign to disengage yourself from him,
 “ which I learn from Miss MEADOWS,
 “ would have been effected. Sir JAMES
 “ breakfasted with me in the Haymarket ;
 “ and has since called at your father’s, from
 “ whence I write : he knows that your stay
 “ here was short, and has reason to believe
 “ the CAPTAIN put you into a chair some
 “ hours afterwards at Spring-Gardens. I
 “ hope, therefore, my dear lady, that this
 “ will reach your hands time enough to pre-
 “ vent your concealing any thing. It would
 “ have been better if Sir JAMES had known
 “ nothing, for then you would not have
 “ been suspected : but now he must know
 “ all, or you cannot be justified. Forgive
 “ the freedom with which I write, and
 “ believe me most affectionately

“ Yours,

“ MARIA FREEMAN.

“ P. S. I have ordered the bearer to say he
 “ came from Mrs. FASHION the milliner.”

This letter was given to a chairman, and
 he was ordered to say he brought it from the
 milliner’s ; because, if it should be known
 to come from Mrs. FREEMAN, and should
 fall

fall by accident into Sir JAMES's hands, his curiosity might prompt him to read it and his jealousy to question the lady, without communicating the contents.

N^o. 56. SATURDAY, May 19, 1753.

—*Multos in summa pericula misit
Venturi timor ipse mali.*

LUCANUS.

How oft the fear of ill to ill betrays !

SIR JAMES being convinced, that his lady and the CAPTAIN had passed the morning at a bagnio, by the answer which he received at her father's, went directly home. His lady was just arrived before him, and had not recovered from the confusion and dread which seized her when she heard that Sir JAMES came to town the night before, and at the same instant anticipated the consequences of her own indiscretion. She was told he was then at the coffee-house, and in a few minutes was thrown into an universal tremor upon hearing him knock at the door. He perceived her distress, not with compassion but

but rage, because he believed it to proceed from the consciousness of guilt ; he turned pale, and his lips quivered ; but he so far restrained his passion as to ask her, without invective, " Where, and how she had passed the night." She replied, " at Captain FREEMAN'S ; that the CAPTAIN was " upon guard, that she sat up with his lady " till he came in, and that then insisting to " see her home she would suffer the coach " to go no farther than her father's, where " he left her early in the morning : " she had not fortitude to relate the sequel, but stopped with some appearance of irresolution and terror. Sir JAMES then asked, " If " she came directly from her father's home." This question, and the manner in which it was asked, increased her confusion : to appear to have stopped short in her narrative, she thought would be an implication of guilt, as it would betray a desire of concealment : but the past could not be recalled, and she was impelled by the equivocation to falsehood, from which, however, she would have been kept back by fear, if Sir JAMES had not deceived her into a belief that he had been no farther than the neighbourhood

bourhood. After these tumultuous reflections which passed in a moment, she ventured to affirm, that "she staid with Miss MEADOWS till eight, and then came "home:" but she uttered this falsehood with such marks of guilt and shame, which she had indeed no otherwise than by this falsehood incurred or deserved, that Sir JAMES no more doubted her infidelity than her existence. As her story was the same with that of the CAPTAIN's, and as one had concealed the truth and the other denied it, he concluded there was a confederacy bring between them; and determining first to the CAPTAIN to account, he turned from her abruptly, and immediately left the house.

At the door he met the chairman who had been dispatched by Mrs. FREEMAN to his lady; and fiercely interrogating him what was his business, the man produced the letter, and saying, as he had been ordered, that he brought it from Mrs. FASHION, Sir JAMES snatched it from him, and muttering some expressions of contempt and resentment thrust it into his pocket.

It happened that Sir JAMES did not find the CAPTAIN at home; he, therefore,

left a billet, in which he requested to see him at a neighbouring tavern, and added that he had put on his sword.

In the mean time, his lady, dreading a discovery of the falsehood which she had asserted, dispatched a billet to Captain FREEMAN; in which she conjured him as a man of honour, for particular reasons not to own to Sir JAMES, or any other person, that he had seen her after he had left her at her father's: she also wrote to her cousin MEADOWS, intreating, that if she was questioned by Sir JAMES, he might be told that she staid with her till eight o'clock, an hour at which only herself and the servants were up.

The billet to Miss MEADOWS came soon after the chairman had returned with an account of what had happened to the letter; and Mrs. FREEMAN was just gone in great haste to relate the accident to the CAPTAIN, as it was of importance that he should know it before his next interview with Sir JAMES: but the CAPTAIN had been at home before her, and had received both Sir JAMES's billet and that of his lady. He went immediately to the tavern, and, inquiring for Sir JAMES FORREST, was shewn into a back-room

room one pair of stairs : Sir JAMES received his salutation without reply, and instantly bolted the door. His jealousy was complicated with that indignation and contempt, which a sense of injury from a person of inferior rank never fails to produce ; he, therefore, demanded of the CAPTAIN in a haughty tone, “ Whether he had not that morning been in company with his wife, “ after he had left her at her father’s ? ” The CAPTAIN, who was incensed at Sir JAMES’s manner, and deemed himself engaged in honour to keep the lady’s secret, answered, that “ after what he had said in the morning “ no man had a right to suppose he had seen “ the lady afterwards ; that to insinuate the “ contrary, was obliquely to charge him with “ a falsehood ; that he was bound to answer “ no such questions till they were properly “ explained ; and that as a gentleman he “ was prepared to vindicate his honour.” Sir JAMES justly deemed this reply an equivocation and an insult ; and being no longer able to restrain his rage, he cursed the CAPTAIN as a liar and a scoundrel, and at the same time striking him a violent blow with his fist, drew his sword and put himself in

a posture of defence. Whatever design the CAPTAIN might have had to bring his friend to temper, and reconcile him to his wife, when he first entered the room, he was now equally enraged, and indeed had suffered equal indignity ; he, therefore, drew at the same instant, and after a few desperate passes on both sides, he received a wound in his breast, and reeling backward a few paces fell down.

The noise had brought many people to the door of the room, and it was forced open just as the CAPTAIN received his wound : Sir JAMES was secured, and a messenger was dispatched for a surgeon. In the mean time, the CAPTAIN perceived himself to be dying : and whatever might before have been his opinion of right and wrong, and honour and shame, he now thought all dissimulation criminal, and that his murderer had a right to that truth which he thought it meritorious to deny him when he was his friend : he, therefore, earnestly desired to speak a few words to him in private. This request was immediately granted ; the persons who had rushed in withdrew, contenting themselves to keep guard

at the door ; and the CAPTAIN beckoning Sir JAMES to kneel down by him, then told him, that “ however his lady might have “ been surprized or betrayed by pride or fear “ into dissimulation or falsehood, she was “ innocent of the crime which he supposed “ her solicitous to conceal :” he then briefly related all the events as they had happened ; and at last, grasping his hand, urged him to escape from the window, that he might be a friend to his widow and to his child, if its birth should not be prevented by the death of its father. Sir JAMES yielded to the force of this motive, and escaped as the CAPTAIN had directed. In his way to Dover he read the letter which he had taken from the chairman, and the next post inclosed it in the following to his lady ;

“ My dear CHARLOTTE,

“ I am the most wretched of all men ;
but I do not upbraid you as the cause : would
“ to God that I were not more guilty than
“ you ! We are the martyrs of dissimulation.
“ By dissimulation dear Captain FREEMAN
“ was induced to waste those hours with you
“ which he would otherwise have enjoyed

“ with the poor unhappy dissembler his wife.
“ Trusting in the success of dissimulation,
“ you was tempted to venture into the Park
“ where you met him whom you wished
“ to shun. By detecting dissimulation in
“ the CAPTAIN, my suspicions were in-
“ creased ; and by dissimulation and falsehood
“ you confirmed them. But your dissimu-
“ lation and falsehood were the effects of
“ mine ; yours were ineffectual, mine suc-
“ ceeded : for I left word that I was gone
“ no further than the Coffee-house, that you
“ might not suspect I had learned too much
“ to be deceived. By the success of a lie
“ put into the mouth of a chairman, I was
“ prevented from reading a letter which at
“ last would have undeceived me ; and by
“ persisting in dissimulation, the CAPTAIN
“ has made his friend a fugitive, and his
“ wife a widow. Thus does insincerity
“ terminate in misery and confusion, whether
“ in its immediate purpose it succeeds or is
“ disappointed. O my dear CHARLOTTE !
“ if ever we meet again, — to meet again
“ in peace is impossible — but if ever we
“ meet again, let us resolve to be sincere :
“ to be sincere is to be wise, innocent, and

“ safe. We venture to commit faults which
 “ shame or fear would prevent, if we did
 “ not hope to conceal them by a lie. But in
 “ the labyrinth of falsehood, men meet
 “ those evils which they seek to avoid ; and
 “ as in the strait path of truth alone they can
 “ see before them, in the strait path of truth
 “ alone they can pursue felicity with success.
 “ Adieu ! I am——dreadful !——I can sub-
 “ scribe nothing that does not reproach and
 “ torment me—Adieu !”

Within a few weeks after the receipt of
 this letter, the unhappy lady heard that her
 husband was cast away in his passage to France.

Nº 57. TUESDAY, May 22, 1753.

——*Nec vox hominem sonat*—— VIRG.

——O more than human voice !

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

LONGINUS proceeds to address his
 friend TERENCE in the following
 manner :

It is the peculiar privilege of poetry, not
 only to place material objects in the most

G 4 amiable

amiable attitudes, and to clothe them in the most graceful drefs, but alfo to give life and motion to immaterial beings ; and form, and colour, and action, even to abſtract ideas ; to embody the VIRTUES, the VICES, and the PASSIONS ; and to bring before our eyes, as on a ſtage, every faculty of the human mind.

PROSOPOPOEIA, therefore, or perſonification, conducted with dignity and propriety, may be juſtly eſteemed one of the greateſt efforts of the creative power of a warm and lively imagination. Of this figure many illuſtrious examples may be produced from the Jewiſh writers I have been ſo earneſtly recommending to your peruſal ; among whom, every part and object of nature is animated, and endowed with ſenſe, with paſſion, and with language.

To ſay that the lightning obeyed the commands of GOD, would of itſelf be ſufficiently ſublime ; but a Hebrew bard expreſſes this idea with far greater energy and life :
 “ Canſt thou ſend lightnings, that they
 “ may go, and ſay unto thee, Here we
 “ are !” And again, “ God ſendeth forth
 “ light, and it goeth ; he calleth it again,
 “ and

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“and it obeyeth him with fear,” How animated, how emphatical, is this unexpected answer, “Here we are !”

PLATO, with a divine boldness, introduces in his CRITO, the Laws of Athens pleading with SOCRATES, and dissuading him from an attempt to escape from the prison in which he was confined ; and the ROMAN rival of DEMOSTHENES has made his Country tenderly expostulate with CATALINE, on the dreadful miseries which his rebellion would devolve on her head. But will a candid critic prefer either of these admired personifications, to those passages in the Jewish poes, where Babylon, or Jerusalem, or Tyre, are represented as sitting on the dust covered with sackcloth, stretching out their hands in vain, and loudly lamenting their desolation ? Nay, further, will he reckon them equal to the following fictions ? WISDOM is introduced, saying of herself ;
“When GOD prepared the heavens, I
“was there ; when he set a circle upon the
“face of the deep, when he gave to the sea
“his decree that the waters should not pass
“his commandments, when he appointed
“the foundations of the earth, then was I
by

“ by him as one brought up with him ;
“ and I was daily his delight, playing al-
“ ways before him.” Where, **TERENTI-**
ANUS, shall we find our **MINERVA**, speaking
with such dignity and elevation? The goddess
of the Hebrew bard, is not only the patro-
ness and inventress of arts and learning, the
parent of felicity and fame, the guardian and
conductress of human life ; but she is paint-
ed as immortal and eternal, the constant
companion of the great **CREATOR** him-
self, and the partaker of his counsels and
designs. Still bolder is the other *Protopo-*
pœia : “ **DESTRUCTION** and **DEATH** say
“ (of **WISDOM**) we have heard the fame
“ thereof with our ears.” If pretenders to
taste and judgment censure such a fiction as
extravagant and wild, I despise their frigidity
and gross insensibility.

When **JEHOVAH** is represented as
descending to punish the earth in his just anger,
it is added, “ Before him went the pesti-
lence.” When the Babylonian tyrant is
destroyed, “ the fir-trees rejoice at his fall,
“ and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since
“ thou art laid down, no feller is come up
“ against us.” And at the captivity of Jeru-
salem

Jerusalem the very ramparts and the walls lament "they languish together." Read likewise the following address, and tell me what emotion you feel at the time of perusal: "O thou sword of the Lord, how long will it be ere thou be quiet? Put up thyself into thy scabbard, rest and be silent." Art thou not amazed and delighted, my friend, to behold joy and anguish, and revenge ascribed to the trees of the forest, to walls, and warlike instruments.

Before I conclude these observations, I cannot forbear taking notice of two remarkable passages in the Hebrew writers, because they bear a close resemblance with two in our own tragedians.

SOPHOCLES, by a noble *Protopopœia*, thus aggravates the misery of the Thebans, visited by a dreadful plague—"Hell is enriched with groans and lamentations." This image is heightened by a Jewish author, who describes Hell or Hades, as, "an enormous monster, who hath extended and enlarged himself, and opened his insatiable mouth without measure."

CASSANDRA, in ESCHYLUS, struck with the treachery and barbarity of Clytemnestra

nestra, who is murdering her husband Agamemnon, suddenly exclaims in a prophetic fury, " Shall I call her the direful mother
" of hell ! " To represent the most terrible species of destruction, the Jewish poet says,
" The first born of death shall devour his
" strength."

Besides the attribution of person and action to objects immaterial or inanimate, there is still another species of the *Prosopopœia* no less lively and beautiful than the former, when a real person is introduced speaking with propriety and decorum. The speeches which the Jewish poets have put into the mouth of their JEHOVAH, are worthy the greatness and incomprehensible Majesty of the ALL-PERFECT BEING. Hear him asking one of his creatures, with a lofty kind of irony, " Where wast thou, when I laid
" the foundations of the earth ? declare,
" if thou hast understanding. Who hath
" laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest ?
" or who hath stretched the line upon it ?
" Whereon are the foundations thereof
" fastened, or who laid the corner-stone ?
" When the morning stars sang together and
" all the sons of GOD shouted for joy ? Or
who

“ who shut up the sea with doors, when it
 “ brake forth as if it had issued out of the
 “ womb ? When I brake up for it my de-
 “ creed place, and set bars, and doors, and
 “ said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no
 “ farther, and here shall the pride of thy
 “ waves be stayed.” How can we reply to
 these sublime enquiries, but in the words
 that follow. “ Behold, I am vile, what
 “ shall I answer thee ? I may lay mine hand
 “ upon my mouth.”

I have in a former treatise observed to you,
 that HOMER has degraded his Gods into
 men : these writers alone have not violated
 the DIVINE MAJESTY by inadequate and
 indecent representations, but have made the
 great CREATOR act and speak in a manner
 suitable to the supreme dignity of his nature,
 as far as the grossness of mortal conceptions
 will permit. From the sublimity and spi-
 rituality of their notions, so different in
 degree and kind from those of the most ex-
 alted philosophers, one may, perhaps, be
 inclined to think their claim to a divine in-
 spiration reasonable and just, since GOD
 alone can describe himself to man.

I had

I had written thus far, when I received dispatches from the empress of ZENOBIA, with orders to attend her instantly at PALMYRA ; but am resolved, before I set out, to add to this letter a few remarks on the beautiful comparisons of the Hebrew poets.

The use of similes in general consists in the illustration or amplification of any subject, or in presenting pleasing pictures to the mind by the suggestion of new images. HOMER and the HEBREW bards disdain minute resemblances, and seek not an exact correspondence with every feature of the object they introduce. Provided a general likeness appear, they think it sufficient. Not solicitous for exactness, which in every work is the sure criterion of a cold and creeping genius, they introduce many circumstances that perhaps have no direct affinity to the subject, but taken all together contribute to the variety and beauty of the piece.

The pleasures of friendship and benevolence are compared to the perfumes that flow from the ointments usually poured on the priest's head, which run down to his beard and even to the skirts of his clothing. The sun rising and breaking in upon the shades
of

of night, is compared to a bridegroom issuing out of his chamber ; in allusion to the Jewish custom, of ushering the bridegroom from his chamber at midnight with great solemnity and splendor, preceded by the light of innumerable lamps and torches. How amiably is the tenderness and solicitude of GOD for his favourites expressed ! “ As the eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings, so the Lord alone did lead them !” On the other hand, how dreadfully is his indignation described ; “ I will be unto them as a lion, as a leopard by the way will I observe them. I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and I will rent the caul of their heart.” A little afterwards the scene suddenly changes, and divine favour is painted by the following similitudes : “ I will be as the dew unto Judæa : he shall grow as the lily ; his branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive-tree, and his smell like Mount Libanus.” MENANDER himself, that just characteriser of human life, has not given us a more apt and lively comparison than

than the following : “ As the climbing a
“ sandy way is to the feet of the aged, so is
“ a wife full of words to a quiet man.”
Nor has one of our Grecian poets spoken so
feelingly, so eloquently, or so elegantly of
beauty, as the emperor SOLOMON of his
mistress, or bride, in images perfectly ori-
ginal and new : “ Thy hair,” says he, “ is
“ as a flock of goats that appear from Mount
“ Gilead ; thy teeth are like a flock of sheep
“ that are even shorn, which come up from
“ the washing :” by which similitude their
exact equality, evenness, and whiteness, are
justly represented. “ Thy neck is like the
“ tower of David, builded for an armoury,
“ whereon there hang a thousand bucklers,
“ all shields of mighty men :” that is straight
and tall, adorned with golden chains and
the richest jewels of the East. “ Thy two
“ breasts are like two young roes that are
“ twins, which feed among the lilies.”
The exquisite elegance and propriety of
which similitude need not be pointed out,
and cannot be excelled.

I have purposely reserved one comparison
for a conclusion, not only for the sake of its
beauty and justness, but because it describes
friend-

a friendship so different from the constancy which I hope will ever be the character of yours and mine. "My brethren," says the writer, "have dealt deceitfully with me. "They are like torrents which when swollen "and increased with winter showers and the "meltings of ice, promise great and un- "failing plenty of waters ; but in the "times of violent heats, suddenly are parch- "ed up and disappear. The traveller in "the deserts of Arabia seeks for them in "vain ; the troops of Sheba looked, the "caravans of Tema waited for them : they "came to the accustomed springs for relief ; "they were confounded, they perished with "thirst."

In giving you these short specimens of Jewish poetry, I think I may compare myself to those spies which the above-mentioned MOSES dispatched, to discover the country he intended to conquer ; and who brought from thence, as evidences of its fruitfulness, the most delicious figs and pomegranates, and a branch with one cluster of grapes, "so large and weighty," says the historian, "that they bare it between two upon a "staff." Farewell. Z.

N^o 58. SATURDAY, May 25, 1753.

Damnant quod non intelligunt.

CIC.

They condemn what they do not understand.

EURIPIDES, having presented SOCRATES with the writings of HERACLITUS, a philosopher famed for involution and obscurity, enquired afterwards his opinion of their merit. "What I understand," said SOCRATES, "I find to be excellent ; " and, therefore, believe that to be of equal "value which I cannot understand."

The reflection of every man who reads this passage will suggest to him the difference between the practice of SOCRATES, and that of modern critics : SOCRATES, who had, by long observation upon himself and others, discovered the weakness of the strongest, and the dimness of the most enlightened intellect, was afraid to decide hastily in his own favour, or to conclude that an author had written without meaning, because he could not immediately catch his ideas ; he knew that the faults of books are often

often more justly imputable to the reader, who sometimes wants attention, and sometimes penetration; whose understanding is often obstructed by prejudice, and often dissipated by remissness; who comes sometimes to a new study, unfurnished with knowledge previously necessary; and finds difficulties insuperable, for want of ardour sufficient to encounter them.

Obscurity and clearness are relative terms: to some readers scarce any book is easy, to others not many are difficult: and surely they, whom neither any exuberant praise bestowed by others, nor any eminent conquests over stubborn problems, have entitled to exalt themselves above the common orders of mankind, might condescend to imitate the candour of SOCRATES; and where they find incontestible proofs of superior genius, be content to think that there is justness in the connection which they cannot trace, and cogency in the reasoning which they cannot comprehend.

This diffidence is never more reasonable than in the perusal of the authors of antiquity; of those whose works have been the delight of ages, and transmitted as the great inheri-

tance of mankind from one generation to another: surely, no man can, without the utmost arrogance, imagine that he brings any superiority of understanding to the perusal of these books which have been preserved in the devastation of cities, and snatched up from the wreck of nations; which those who fled before barbarians have been careful to carry off in the hurry of migration, and of which barbarians have repented the destruction. If in books thus made venerable by the uniform attestation of successive ages, any passages shall appear unworthy of that praise which they have formerly received; let us not immediately determine, that they owed their reputation to dulness or bigotry; but suspect at least that our ancestors had some reasons for their opinions, and that our ignorance of those reasons makes us differ from them.

It often happens, that an author's reputation is endangered in succeeding times, by that which raised the loudest applause among his cotemporaries: nothing is read with greater pleasure than allusions to recent facts, reigning opinions, or present controversies; but when facts are forgotten, and contro-

versies extinguished, these favourite touches lose all their graces ; and the author in his descent to posterity must be left to the mercy of chance, without any power of ascertaining the memory of those things, to which he owed his luckiest thoughts and his kindest reception.

On such occasions, every reader should remember the diffidence of SOCRATES, and repair by his candour the injuries of time ; he should impute the seeming defects of his author to some chasm of intelligence, and suppose, that the sense which is now weak was once forcible, and the expression which is now dubious formerly determinate.

How much the mutilation of ancient history has taken away from the beauty of poetical performances, may be conjectured from the light which a lucky commentator sometimes effuses, by the recovery of an incident that had been long forgotten : thus in the third book of Horace, Juno's denunciations against those that should presume to raise again the walls of Troy, could for many ages please only by splendid images and swelling language, of which no man discovered the use or propriety,

ty, till Le Fevre, by shewing on what occasion the Ode was written, changed wonder to rational delight. Many passages yet undoubtedly remain in the same author, which an exacter knowledge of the incidents of his time would clear from objections. Among these I have always numbered the following lines :

*Aurum per medios ire satellites,
Et perumpere amat saxa, potentius
Ictū fulmineo. Concidit Auguris
Argivi domus ob lucrum
Demersa excidio. Diffidit urbium
Portas vir Macedo, et subruit æmulos
Reges muneribus. Munera navium
Sævos illaqueant duces.*

Stronger than thunder's winged force,
All powerful gold can spread its course,
Thro' watchful guards its passage make,
And loves through solid walls to break :
From gold the overwhelming woes,
That crush'd the Grecian augur rose :
Philip with gold thro' cities broke,
And rival monarchs felt his yoke ;
Captains of ships to gold are slaves,
Though fierce as their own winds and waves.

FRANCIS.

The close of this passage, by which every reader is now disappointed and offended,

I

was

was probably the delight of the Roman court: it cannot be imagined, that HORACE after having given to gold the force of thunder, and told of its power to storm cities and to conquer kings, would have concluded his account of its efficacy with its influence over naval commanders, had he not alluded to some fact then current in the mouths of men, and therefore more interesting for a time than the conquests of Philip. Of the like kind may be reckoned another stanza in the same book:

*Iussa coram non sine conscio
Surgit marito, sue vocat institor
Sue navis Hispanæ magister
Dedecorum pretiosus emptor.*

The conscious husband bids her rise,
When some rich factor courts her charms,
Who calls the wanton to his arms,
And, prodigal of wealth and fame,
Profusely buys the costly shame.

FRANCIS.

He has little knowledge of HORACE who imagines that the Factor, or the Spanish Merchant, are mentioned by chance: there was undoubtedly some popular story of an intrigue, which those names recalled to the memory of his reader.

H 4

The

The flame of his genius in other parts, though somewhat dimmed by time, is not totally eclipsed ; his address and judgment yet appear, though much of the spirit and vigour of his sentiment is lost : this has happened to the twentieth Ode of the first book ;

*Vile potabis medicis Sabinum
 Cantharis, Græcâ quod ego ipse testâ
 Conditum levi ; datus in theatro
 Cum tibi plausus,
 Chære Mæcenas eques. Ut paterni
 Fluminis ripæ, simul et jocosa
 Redderet laudes tibi Vaticanæ
 Montis imago.*

A poet's beverage humbly cheap,
 (Should great Mæcenas be my guest)
 The vintage of the Sabine grape
 But yet in sober cups, shall crown the feast ;
 'Twas rack'd into a Grecian cask,
 Its rougher juice to melt away ;
 I seal'd it too—a pleasing task !
 With annual joy to mark the glorious day,
 When in applausive shouts thy name
 Spread from the theatre around.
 Floating on thy own Tiber's stream,
 And Echo, playful nymph, return'd the sound.

FRANCIS.

We

We here easily remark the intertexture of a happy compliment with an humble invitation; but certainly are less delighted than those, to whom the mention of the applause bestowed upon Mæcenas, gave occasion to recount the actions or words that produced it.

Two lines which have exercised the ingenuity of modern critics, may, I think, be reconciled to the judgment, by an easy supposition: HORACE thus addresses Agrippa;

*Scriberis Varo fortis, et hostium
Victor, Mæonii carminis alite.*

Varius, a swan of Homer's wing,
Shall brave Agrippa's conquests sing.

FRANCIS.

That Varius should be called "A bird of Homeric song," appears so harsh to modern ears, that an emendation of the text has been proposed: but surely the learning of the antients had been long ago obliterated, and every man thought himself at liberty to corrupt the lines which he did not understand. If we imagine that Varius had been
by

by any of his cotemporaries celebrated under the appellation of *MUSARUM ALES*, the swan of the Muses, the language of *HORACE* becomes graceful and familiar; and that such a compliment was at least possible we know from the transformation feigned by *HORACE* of himself.

The most elegant compliment that was paid to *ADDISON*, is of this obscure and perishable kind :

When panting Virtue her last efforts made,
You brought your Clio to the virgin's aid.

These lines must please as long as they are understood ; but can be understood only by those that have observed *ADDISON*'s signatures in the spectator.

The nicety of these minute allusions I shall exemplify by another instance, which I take this occasion to mention, because, as I am told, the commentators have omitted it. *TIBULLUS* addresses *Cynthia* in this manner ;

*Te spectem suprema mihi cum venerit hora,
Te teneam moriens deficiente manu.*

Before my closing eyes, dear *Cynthia*, stand,
Held weakly by my fainting trembling hand.

To

To these lines OVID thus refers in his elegy
on the death of TIBULLUS ;

*Cynthia decedens, felicius, inquit, amata
Sum tibi ; vixisti dum tuus ignis eram.
Cui Nemesis, quid , ait, tibi sunt mea damna dolori
Me tenuit moriens deficiente manu,*

Blest was my reign, retiring Cynthia cry'd :
Not till he left my breast, Tibullus dy'd.
Forbear, said Nemesis, my loss to moan,
The fainting trembling hand was mine alone.

The beauty of this passage, which consists
in the appropriation made by Nemesis of the
line originally directed to Cynthia, had been
wholly imperceptible to succeeding ages,
had chance, which has destroyed so many
greater volumes, deprived us likewise of the
poems of TIBULLUS.

T.

Nº 59. TUESDAY, May 29, 1753.

— *Si Pieriâ Quadrans tibi nullus in Arcâ
Ostendatur, ames nomen victumque Machæræ
Et vendas potiùs, commissâ quod Auctio vendit
Stantibus, Oenophorum, Tripodes, Armaria, Cistas,
Halcyonem Bacchi, Thebas & Terea fausti.*

JUV

If not a soue in thy lank purse appear,
Go mount the rostrum and turn auctioneer;
With china crack'd the greedy crowd trepan,
With spurious pictures and with false japan;
Sell the collected stores of misers dead,
Or English peers for debts to Gallia fled.

THE indigence of authors, and particularly of poets, has long been the object of lamentation and ridicule, of compassion and contempt.

It has been observed, that not one favourite of the Muses has ever been able to build a house since the days of AMPHION, whose art it would be fortunate for them if they possessed; and that the greatest punishment that can possibly be inflicted on them, is to oblige them to sup in their own lodgings.

—Molles

—*Molles ubi reddunt ova columbae.*

Where pigeons lay their eggs.

Boileau introduces Damon, whose writings entertained and instructed the city and the court, as having past the summer without a shirt, and the winter without a cloak ; and resolving at last to forsake Paris :

—*ou la vertu n'a plus ni Feu ni Lieu ;*

Where shiv'ring worth no longer finds a home ;

and to find out a retreat in some distant grotto.

D'où jamais ni l' Huissier, ni le Serjent n'approche ;

Safe, where no critics damn, nor duns molest.

POPE.

“ The rich Comedian,” says BRUYERE, “ lolling in his gilt chariot, bespatters the “ face of CORNEILLE walking afoot :” and JUVENAL remarks, that his cotemporary bards generally qualified themselves by their diet, to make excellent bustos ; that they were compelled sometimes to hire lodgings at a baker's, in order to warm themselves for nothing ; and that it was the common fate of the fraternity.

Pallere

Pallere, & vinum toto nescire Decembri.

—To pine,

Look pale, and all December taste no wine.

DRYDEN.

VIRGIL himself is strongly suspected to have lain in the streets, or on some Roman bulk, when he speaks so feelingly of a rainy and tempestuous night in his well-known epigram.

“There ought to be an hospital founded
“for decayed wits,” said a lively Frenchman,
“and it might be called an hospital of in-
“curables.”

Few, perhaps, wander among the laurels of Parnassus, but who have reason ardently to wish and to exclaim with Æneas, but without the hero's good fortune,

*Si nunc se nobis ille aureus arbore ramus
Ostendat nemore in tanto !*

O ! in this ample grove could I behold
The tree that blooms with vegetable gold.

PITT.

The patronage of Lelius and Scipio did not enable TERENCE to rent a house. TASSO, in a humorous sonnet addressed to his favourite cat, earnestly entreats her to lend him the light of her eyes during his midnight studies, not being himself able to purchase

purchase a candle to write by. DANTE the Homer of Italy, and CAMOENS of Portugal, were both banished and imprisoned. CERVANTES, perhaps the most original genius the world ever beheld, perished by want in the streets of Madrid, as did our own SPENSER at Dublin. And a writer, little inferior to the Spaniard in the exquisiteness of his humour and raillery, I mean ERASMUS, after the tedious wanderings of many years, from city to city, and from patron to patron, praised, and promised, and deceived by all, obtained no settlement but with his printer. "At last," says he, in one of his epistles, "I should have been advanced to a cardinalship, if there had not been a decree in my way, by which those are secluded from this honour whose income amounts not to three thousand ducats."

I remember to have read a satire in Latin prose, intitled, "a poet hath bought a house." The poet having purchased a house, the matter was immediately laid before the parliament of poets, assembled on that important occasion, as a thing unheard of, as a very bad precedent, and of most pernicious conse-

consequence ; and accordingly, a very severe sentence was pronounced against the buyer. When the members came to give their votes, it appeared there was not a single person in the assembly, who through the favour of powerful patrons, or their own happy genius, was worth so much as to be proprietor of a house, either by inheritance or purchase : all of them neglecting their private fortunes, confessed and boasted that they lived in lodgings. The poet was therefore, ordered to sell his house immediately, to buy wine with the money for their entertainment, in order to make some expiation for his enormous crime, and to teach him to live unsettled and without care like a true poet.

Such are the ridiculous, and such the pitiable stories related, to expose the poverty of poets in different ages and nations ; but which, I am inclined to think, are rather the boundless exaggerations of satire and fancy, than the sober result of experience, and the determination of truth and judgment : for the general position may be contradicted by numerous examples ; and it may, perhaps, appear, on reflection and

exa-

mination, that the art is not chargeable with the faults and failings of its peculiar professors, that it has no peculiar tendency to make men either rakes or spendthrifts, and that those who are indigent poets would have been indigent merchants and mechanics.

The neglect of œconomy, in which great geniuses are supposed to have indulged themselves, has unfortunately given so much authority and justification to carelessness and extravagance, that many a minute rhimer has fallen into dissipation and drunkenness, because BUTLER and OTWAY lived and died in an alehouse. As a certain block-head wore his gown on one shoulder to mimic the negligence of Sir THOMAS MORE, so these servile imitators follow their masters in all that disgraced them; contract immoderate debts, because DRYDEN died insolvent; and neglect to change their linen, because SMITH was a sloven. "If I should happen to look pale" says HORACE, "all the hackney-writers in Rome would immediately drink cummin to gain the same complexion." And I myself am acquainted

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I

with

with a witling who uses a glass, only because POPE was near sighted.

I can easily conceive, that a mind occupied and overwhelmed with the weight and immensity of its own conceptions, glancing with astonishing rapidity from heaven to earth, and from earth to heaven, cannot willingly submit to the dull drudgery of examining the justness and accuracy of a butcher's bill. To descend from the widest and most comprehensive views of nature, and weigh-out hops for a brewing, must be invincibly disgusting to a true genius: to be able to build imaginary palaces of the most exquisite architecture, but yet not to pay a carpenter's bill, is a cutting mortification and disgrace: to be ruined by pursuing the precepts of Virgilian agriculture, and by plowing classically, without attending to the wholesome monitions of low British farmers, is a circumstance that aggravates the failure of a crop, to a man who wishes to have lived in the Augustan age, and despises the system of modern husbandry.

Many poets, however, may be found, who have condescended to the cares of œconomy,

mony, and who have conducted their families with all the parsimony and regularity of an alderman of the last century; who have not superciliously disdained to enter into the concerns of common life, and to subscribe to and study certain necessary dogmas of the vulgar, convinced of their utility and expediency, and well knowing that because they are vulgar, they are, therefore, both important and true.

If we look backwards on antiquity, or survey ages nearer our own, we shall find several of the greatest geniuses so far from being sunk in indigence, that many of them enjoyed splendor and honours, or at least were secured against the anxieties of poverty, by a decent competence and plenty of the conveniences of life.

Indeed, to pursue riches farther than to attain a decent competence, is too low and illiberal an occupation for a real genius to descend to; and HORACE wisely ascribes the manifest inferiority of the Roman literature to the Grecian, to an immoderate love of money, which necessarily contracts and rusts

the mind and disqualifies it for noble and generous undertakings.

ÆSCHYLUS was an officer of no small rank in the Athenian army at the celebrated battle of Marathon ; and SOPHOCLES was an accomplished general, who commanded his countrymen in several most important expeditions : THEOCRITUS was caressed and enriched by Ptolemy ; and the gaiety of ANACREON was the result of ease and plenty : PINDAR was better rewarded for many of his odes, than any other bard ancient or modern, except perhaps BOILEAU for his celebrated piece of flattery on the taking Namur : VIRGIL at last possessed a fine house at Rome, and a villa at Naples : " HORACE," says SWIFT in one of his lectures on œconomy to GAY, " I am sure " kept his coach : " LUCAN and SILIUS ITALICUS dwelt in marble palaces, and had their gardens adorned with the most exquisite capital statues of Greece : MILTON was fond of a domestic life, and lived with exemplary frugality and order : CORNEILLE and RACINE were both admirable masters of their families, faithful husbands, and prudent

dent œconomists: BOILEAU, by the liberalities of Lewis, was enabled to purchase a delightful privacy at Auteuil, was eminently skilled in the management of his finances, and despised that affectation which arrogantly aims to place itself above the necessary decors and rules of civil life: in all which particulars they were equalled by ADDISON, SWIFT, and POPE.

It ought not, therefore, to be concluded from a few examples to the contrary, that poetry and prudence are incompatible; a conclusion that seems to have arisen in this kingdom, from the dissolute behaviour of the despicable debauchees, that disgraced the muses and the court of Charles the Second, by their lives and by their writings. Let those who are blest with genius recollect, that OECONOMY is the parent of INTEGRITY, of LIBERTY, and of EASE; and the beautiful sister of TEMPERANCE, of CHEERFULNESS, and HEALTH: and that PROFUSENESS is a cruel and crafty demon, that gradually involves her followers in dependence and debts; that is, fetters them with "irons that enter into their souls."

Z

I 3

Nº

N^o 60. SATURDAY, *June 2*, 1753.

Fus est et ab hoste doceri.

Our foes may teach, the wise by foes are taught.

TO have delayed the publication of the following letter would have been surely inexcuseable ; as it is subscribed by the name of a very great personage, who has been long celebrated for his superiority of genius and knowledge : and whose abilities will not appear to have been exaggerated by servility of faction, when his genuine productions shall be better known. He has, indeed, been suspected of some attempts against REVEALED RELIGION ; but the letter which I have the honour to publish, will do justice to his character, and set his principles in a new light.

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

As your principal design is to revive the practice of virtue, by establishing the CHRISTIAN RELIGION ; you will naturally conclude, that your views and mine are directly opposite : and my attempt to shew,
that

that it is your interest to admit my correspondence, will, therefore, be considered as a proof of the contrary: You will, however, soon discover, that by promoting your interest, I seek my own; and when you have read my letter, you will be far from suspecting, that under a specious show of concurrence in your undertaking, I have concealed an attempt to render it ineffectual.

“Never to give up the present for the future,” is a maxim which I have always taught both by precept and example: I consider the now, as the whole of my existence; and therefore to improve it, is the whole of my study. And, indeed, happiness, like virtue, consists not in rest, but in action: it is found rather in the pursuit, than the attainment of an end: for though the death of the stag, is the purpose of the chase; yet the moment this purpose is accomplished, the sport is at an end. VIRTUE and RELIGION alone can afford me employment: without them, I must inevitably be idle; and to be idle is to be wretched. I should, therefore, instead of attempting to destroy the principles

upon which I was resisted, have been content to surmount them : for he who should hamstring the game, lest any of them should escape, would be justly disappointed of the pleasure of running them down. Such, indeed, is my present condition : and as it will at once answer your purpose and mine, I shall exhibit an account of my conduct, and shew how my disappointment was produced.

My principal business has always been to counterwork the effects of REVEALED RELIGION : I have, therefore, had little to do except among Jews and Christians. In the early ages of the world, when REVELATION was frequently repeated with sensible and miraculous circumstances, I was far from being idle ; and still think it an incontestible proof of my abilities, that even then my labour was not always unsuccessful. I applied not so much to the understanding as to the senses, till after the promulgation of CHRISTIANITY ; but I soon discovered that CHRISTIANITY afforded motives to VIRTUE and PIETY, which were scarce to be overpowered by temptation : I was, therefore, obliged now to exert my power, not upon the senses but the understanding

understanding, As I could not suspend the force of these motives, I laboured to direct them towards other objects ; and in the eighth century I had so far succeeded, as to produce a prevailing opinion, that “ the worship of images “ was of more moment than moral rectitude.” It was decreed by a Pope and council, that to speak of them with irreverence was a forfeit of salvation, and that the offender should, therefore, be excommunicated: those who opposed this decree, were persecuted with fire and sword ; and I had the satisfaction not only of supplanting virtue, but of propagating misery, by a zeal for religion. I must not, however, arrogate all the honour of an event which so much exceeded my hopes ; for many arguments in favour of images were drawn from a book, intitled PRATUM SPIRITUALE : in which it is affirmed, that having long tempted a hermit to incontinence, I offered to desist if he would cease to worship an image of the Virgin ; and that the hermit having consulted an abbot, whether to accept or refuse the condition, was told that it was more eligible to commit incontinence, than to neglect the worship of images : and I declare upon my honour, that the facts, as far as they relate

relate to me, did never happen, but are wholly invented by the ingenious author. That salvation had very little connection with virtue, was indeed an opinion which I propagated with great diligence; and with such success, that BONIFACE, the apostle of Germany, declared the benefit of Sacraments to depend upon the qualifications of those by whom they were administered; and that a Bavarian monk having ignorantly baptized in these words, "Baptizo te in nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti," all such baptisms were invalid. Against knowledge, however, I never failed to oppose zeal; and when VIRGILIUS asserted, that the earth being a sphere, there were people upon it the soles of whose feet were directly opposite to each other; the same father BONIFACE, represented him to the Pope as a corrupter of the CHRISTIAN FAITH; and the Pope, concurring with BONIFACE, soon after excommunicated a bishop for adopting so dangerous an opinion, declaring him an heretic, and a blasphemer against GOD and his own soul. In these instances my success was the more remarkable, as I verily believe BONIFACE himself

intended well, because he died a martyr with great constancy.

I found, however, that while the GOSPELS were publickly read, the superstructure which I had built upon them was in perpetual danger: I, therefore, exerted all my influence to discontinue the practice, and at length succeeded, though ARISTOTLE'S Ethics were substituted for them in some northern churches; but against ARISTOTLE'S Ethics I had not equal objections.

During this period, therefore, my powers were neither dissipated by unsuccessful labour, nor rendered useless by necessary idleness: I had perplexed and confounded the most simple and salutary doctrine, with absurd subtilties and extravagant conceits: and I had armed with the weapons of superstition, and disguised with the tinsel of ceremony, that RELIGION which comprehended every precept in LOVE to GOD, AND TO MAN; which gave no direction about divine worship, but that it should be performed IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH; or about SOCIAL VIRTUE, but that love of SELF should be the measure of bounty to others. But there was still personal sanctity, though the doctrine and the discipline

discipline of the church were become corrupt and ridiculous : zeal was still animated by integrity though it was no longer directed by knowledge : the service and the honour of GOD were still intended, though the means were mistaken. Many, indeed, gladly substituted gain for godliness ; and committed every species of wickedness, because they hoped to appropriate works of supererogation that were performed by others : but there were some who practised all the severities of erroneous piety, and suffered the mortification which they recommended : so that I had still something to do, and was still encouraged to diligence by success.

But all these advantages depended upon ignorance : for the security of ignorance, therefore, I affirmed, that she was the mother of devotion ; a lie so successful, that it passed into a proverb.

The period, however, arrived, when knowledge could be no longer suppressed ; and I was under the most dreadful apprehensions that all the absurdities, by which I had diminished the influence and the beauty of CHRISTIANITY, would now be removed : I could not conceive that these motives which had produced

produced abstinence and solitude, vigils, scourgings, and the mortification of every appetite and every passion, would fail to produce a more reasonable service ; or become ineffectual, when the paths of duty appeared to be not only peaceful but pleasant. I did not, however, sit down in despair ; but the knowledge which I could not repress, I laboured to pervert. As the human intellect is finite, and can comprehend only finite objects, I knew that if all was rejected as incredible which was not comprehended, I should have little to fear from a religion founded in INFINITE PERFECTION, and connected with revelations which an INFINITE BEING had vouchsafed of himself. I, therefore, immediately opposed reason to faith : I threw out subjects of debate which I knew could never be discussed ; the assent of many was suspended, in expectation that impossibilities would be effected ; and at last refused in the fretfulness of disappointment. Thus infidelity gradually succeeded to superstition : the hope, and fear, the love, reverence, and gratitude, which had been excited by CHRISTIANITY, and produced such astonishing effects, were now felt no more ; and as the most forcible motives
to

to piety and virtue were again wanting, piety was wholly neglected and virtue rendered more easy and commodious : the bounds of moral obligation included every day less and less ; and crimes were committed without compunction, because they were not supposed to incur punishment.

These evils, Mr. ADVENTURER, evils both in your estimation and mine, I am afraid will continue if they cannot increase : disputation, and scepticism flourish without my influence, and have left no principle for me to counter-act : the number of my vassals is indeed greatly increased by the unsolicited wickedness of the present time ; but this increase is not equivalent to the pleasure of seduction.

If the importance, therefore, of CHRISTIANITY to mankind, shall appear from its having busied me to subvert it, and from the misery which I suffer in idleness, now my purpose is unhappily effected ; I hope they are not yet so obdurate in ill, as to persist in rejecting it merely in spight to me ; and destroy themselves, only that I may not be amused by attempting their destruction. You see, that I have sufficient benevolence to request, that they would regard their own interest, at least

far as it is consistent with mine; and if they refuse me, I am confident you will think they treat me with more severity than I deserve.

I have the honour to be

S I R,

Your most obedient

and very humble Servant

S A T A N.

Nº. 61. TUESDAY, *June 5, 1753.*

Ploravere suis non respondere favorem

Quæsitum meritis——

HOR.

Each inly murm'ring at the unequal meed,
Repines that merit should reward exceed.

PERHAPS there is not any word in the language less understood than HONOUR; and but few that might not have been equally mistaken, without producing equal mischief.

Honour is both a motive and an end: as a principle of action it differs from virtue only in degree, and therefore, necessarily includes it, as generosity includes justice: and as a
reward

reward it can be deserved only by those actions which no other principle can produce. To say of another that he is a MAN of HONOUR, is at once to attribute the principle and to confer the reward. But in the common acceptance of the word, HONOUR, as a principle, does not include virtue ; and, therefore, as a reward is frequently bestowed upon vice. Such, indeed, is the blindness and vassalage of human reason, that men are discouraged from virtue by the fear of shame, and incited to vice by the hope of honour.

Honour, indeed, is always claimed in specious terms ; but the facts upon which the claim is founded, are often flagitiously wicked. LOTHARIO arrogates the character of a man of honour, for having defended a lady, who had put herself under his protection, from insult at the risque of life ; and ALEATOR for fulfilling an engagement, to which the law would not have obliged him, at the expence of liberty. But the champion of the lady had first seduced her to adultery ; and to preserve her from the resentment of her husband, had killed him in a duel : and the martyr to his promise had paid a sum, which should have discharged the bill of a necessitous tradesman,

tradesman, to a gamester of quality who had given him credit at cards.

Such, in the common opinion, are men of honour ; and he who in certain circumstances should abstain from murder, perfidy, or ingratitude, would be avoided as reflecting infamy upon his company.

In these speculations I exhausted my waking powers a few nights ago ; and at length sinking into slumber, I was immediately transported into the regions of fancy.

As I was sitting pensive and alone at the foot of a hill, a man, whose appearance was extremely venerable advanced towards me with great speed ; and beckoning me to follow him, began hastily to climb the hill. My mind suddenly suggested, that this was the genius of INSTRUCTION : I, therefore, instantly rose up, and obeyed the silent intimation of his will : but not being able to ascend with equal rapidity, he caught hold of my hand, " Linger not," said he, " lest the hour of illumination be at an end." We now ascended together, and when we had gained the summit he stood still. " Survey the prospect," said he, " and tell me what

thou seest." "To the right," replied I, "is a long valley, and on the left a boundless plain: at the end of the valley is a mountain that reaches to the clouds; and on the summit a brightness which I cannot yet steadfastly behold." In that valley, said he, the disciples of VIRTUE press forwards; and the votaries of VICE wander on the plain. In the path of VIRTUE are many asperities: the foot is sometimes wounded by thorns, and sometimes bruised against a stone; but the sky over it is always serene; the traveller is refreshed by the breezes of health, and invigorated by the ray of cheerfulness. The plain is adorned with flowers, which gratify the sense with fragrance and beauty; but the beauty is transient, and the fragrance hurtful: the ground is soft, and the paths are so various, that the turf is no where worn away; but above is perpetual gloom; the sun is not seen nor the breeze felt; the air stagnates, and pestilential vapours diffuse drowsiness, lassitude and anxiety. At the foot of the mountain are the bowers of PEACE, and on the summit is the temple of HONOUR.

But all the disciples of VIRTUE do not ascend

ascend the mountains: her path, indeed, is continued beyond the bowers; and the last stage is the ascent of the precipice: to climb, is the voluntary labour of the vigorous and the bold; to desist, is the irreproachable repose of the timid and the weary. To those, however, who have surmounted the difficulties of the way, the gates of the temple have not always been opened; nor against those by whom it has never been trodden, have they always been shut: the declivity of the mountain on the other side is gradual and easy; and by the appointment of fate, the entrance of the temple of HONOUR has been always kept by OPINION. OPINION, indeed, ought to have acted under the influence of TRUTH; but was soon perverted by PREJUDICE and CUSTOM: she admitted many who ascended the mountain without labour from the plain, and rejected some who had toiled up the precipice in the path of VIRTUE. These, however, were not clamorous for admittance; but either repined in silence, or, exulting with honest pride in the consciousness of their own dignity, turned from OPINION with contempt and disdain; and smiled

upon the world which they had left beneath them, the witness of that labour of which they had been refused the reward.

But the crowd within the temple became discontented and tumultuous : the disciples of VIRTUE, jealous of an eminence which they had obtained by the utmost efforts of human power, made some attempts to expel those who had strolled negligently up the slope, and been admitted by OPINION to pollute the temple and disgrace the assembly : those whose right was disputed, were, however, all ready to decide the controversy by the sword ; and as they dreaded scarce any imputation but cowardice, they treated those with great insolence who declined this decision, and yet would not admit their claim.

This confusion and uproar was beheld by the GODDESS with indignation and regret : she flew to the throne of JUPITER, and casting herself at his feet, “ Great ruler of
“ the world,” said she, “ if I have erected
“ a temple to fulfil the purposes of thy wisdom and thy love, to allure mortals up
“ the steep of VIRTUE, and animate them
“ to communicate happiness at the expence
“ of

“ of life; let it not be perverted to render
“ vice presumptuous, nor possessed by those
“ who dare to perish in the violation of thy
“ laws, and the diffusion of calamity.”

JUPITER graciously touched the GODDESS
with his sceptre, and replied, “ that the
“ appointment of fate he could not reverse ;
“ that admission to her temple must still
“ depend upon OPINION ; but that he
“ would depute REASON to examine her
“ conduct, and, if possible, put her again
“ under the influence of TRUTH.”

REASON, therefore, in obedience to the
command of JUPITER, descended upon
the mountain of HONOUR, and entered the
temple. At the first appearance of REASON
contention was suspended, and the whole
assembly became silent with expectation ;
but the moment she revealed her commission,
the tumult was renewed with yet greater vio-
lence. All were equally confident, that
REASON would establish the determination
of OPINION in their favour ; and he that
spoke loudest, hoped to be first heard.
REASON knew, that those only had a right
to enter the temple, who ascended by the
path of VIRTUE ; to determine, therefore,

who should be expelled or received, nothing more seemed necessary, than to discover, by which avenue they had access : but REASON herself found this discovery however easy in speculation, very difficult in effect.

The most flagitious affirmed, that if they had not walked the whole length of the valley, they came into it at the foot of the mountain ; and that at least the path by which they had ascended it, was the path of VIRTUE. This was eagerly contradicted by others ; and, to prevent the tedious labour of deducing truth from a great variety of circumstances, OPINION was called to decide the question.

But it soon appeared, that OPINION scarce knew one path from the other ; and that she neither determined to admit or refuse upon certain principles, or with discriminating knowledge. REASON, however, still continued to examine her ; and, that she might judge of the credibility of her evidence by the account she would give of a known character, asked her, which side of the mountain was ascended by the MACEDONIAN who deluged the world with blood : she answered without hesitation, “ The
“ side

“ side of VIRTUE ; that she knew she was
 “ not mistaken, because she saw him in
 “ the path at a great distance, and remarked
 “ that no man had ever ascended with such
 “ impetuous speed.” As REASON knew this
 account to be false, she ordered OPINION
 to be dismissed, and proceeded to a more
 particular examination of the parties them-
 selves.

REASON found the accounts of many to
 be in the highest degree extravagant and ab-
 surd : some, as a proof of their having climbed
 the path of VIRTUE, described prospects
 that appeared from the opposite side of the
 mountain ; and others affirmed, that the
 path was smooth and level, and that many
 had walked it without stumbling when they
 were scarce awake, and others when they
 were intoxicated with wine.

Upon the foreheads of all these REASON im-
 pressed a mark of reprobation : and as she
 could not expel them without the concur-
 rence of OPINION, she delivered them over
 to TIME, to whom she knew OPINION had
 always paid great deference, and who had ge-
 nerally been a friend to TRUTH.

TIME was commanded to use his influence to procure their expulsion, and to persuade OPINION to regulate her determinations by the judgment of TRUTH. JUSTICE also decreed, that if she persisted to execute her office with negligence and caprice, under the influence of PREJUDICE, and in concurrence with the absurdities of CUSTOM, she should be given up to RIDICULE, a remorseless being who rejoices at the anguish which he inflicts : by him alone OPINION can be punished ; at the sound of his scourge she trembles with apprehension ; and whenever it has been applied by the direction of JUSTICE, OPINION has always become obedient to TRUTH.

TIME, continued my instructor, still labours to fill the command of REASON : but though he has procured many to be expelled who had been admitted, yet he has gained admission for but few who had been rejected ; and OPINION still continues negligent and perverse ; for as she has often felt the scourge of RIDICULE when it has not been deserved, the dread of it has no otherwise influenced her conduct, than by throwing her into such confusion, that the
pur-

purposes of REASON are sometimes involuntarily defeated.

“How then,” said I, “shall HONOUR distinguish those whom she wishes to reward?” “They shall be distinguished,” replied the visionary sage, “in the regions of IMMORTALITY; to which they will at length be conducted by TIME, who will not suffer them to be finally disappointed.”

While I was listening to this reply, with my eyes fixed stedfastly upon the temple, it suddenly disappeared; the black clouds that hovered over the plain of VICE burst in thunder; the hill on which I stood began to sink under me; and the start of sudden terror as I descended awaked me,

N^o 62. SATURDAY, *June 9, 1753.*

*O fortuna viris invida fortibus
Quam non æqua bonis præmia dividis. SENECA.*

Capricious Fortune ever joys,
With partial hand to deal the prize,
To crush the brave and cheat the wise.

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

Fleet, June 6.

TO the account of such of my companions as are imprisoned without being miserable, or are miserable without any claim to compassion ; I promised to add the histories of those, whose virtue has made them unhappy, or whose misfortunes are at least without a crime. That this catalogue should be very numerous, neither you nor your readers ought to expect ; “ rari quippe boni ;” “ The good are few.” Virtue is uncommon in all the classes of humanity ; and I suppose it will scarcely be imagined more frequent in a prison than in other places.

Yet in these gloomy regions is to be found the tenderness, the generosity, the philanthropy of SERENUS, who might have lived
in

in competence and ease, if he could have looked without emotion on the miseries of another. SERENUS was one of those exalted minds, whom knowledge and sagacity could not make suspicious; who poured out his soul in boundless intimacy, and thought community of possessions the law of friendship. The friend of SERENUS was arrested for debt, and after many endeavours to soften his creditor, sent his wife to solicit that assistance which never was refused. The tears and importunity of female distress were more than was necessary to move the heart of SERENUS: he hastened immediately away, and conferring a long time with his friend, found him confident that if the present pressure was taken off, he should soon be able to re-establish his affairs. SERENUS, accustomed to believe, and afraid to aggravate distress, did not attempt to detect the fallacies of hope, nor reflect that every man overwhelmed with calamity believes, that if that was removed he shall immediately be happy: he therefore, with little hesitation offered himself as surety.

In the first raptures of escape all was joy, gratitude and confidence; the friend of SERE-

NUS

NUS displayed his prospects, and counted over the sums of which he should infallibly be master before the day of payment. SERENUS in a short time began to find his danger, but could not prevail with himself to repent of beneficence; and therefore suffered himself still to be amused with projects which he durst not consider, for fear of finding them impracticable. The debtor, after he had tried every method of raising money, which art or indigence could prompt, wanted either fidelity or resolution to surrender himself to prison, and left SERENUS to take his place.

SERENUS has often proposed to the creditor, to pay him whatever he shall appear to have lost by the flight of his friend; but however reasonable this proposal may be thought, avarice and brutality have been hitherto inexorable, and SERENUS still continues to languish in prison.

In this place, however, where want makes almost every man selfish, or desperation gloomy, it is the good fortune of SERENUS not to live without a friend: he passes most of his hours in the conversation of CANDIDUS, a man whom the same virtuous ductility has
with

with some difference of circumstances made equally unhappy. CANDIDUS, when he was young, helpless and ignorant, found a patron that educated, protected, and supported him : his patron being more vigilant for others than himself, left at his death an only son destitute and friendless. CANDIDUS was eager to repay the benefits he had received ; and having maintained the youth for a few years at his own house, afterwards placed him with a merchant of eminence, and gave bonds to a great value as a security for his conduct.

The young man, removed too early from the only eye of which he dreaded the observation, and deprived of the only instruction which he heard with reverence, soon learned to consider virtue as restraint, and restraint as oppression ; and to look with a longing eye at every expence to which he could not reach, and every pleasure which he could not partake : by degrees he deviated from his first regularity, and unhappily mingling among young men busy in dissipating the gains of their father's industry, he forgot the precepts of CANDIDUS, spent the evening in parties of pleasure, and the
4 morning

morning in expedients to support his riots. He was, however, dextrous and active in business; and his master, being secured against any consequences of dishonesty, was very little solicitous to inspect his manners or to enquire how he passed those hours, which were not immediately devoted to the business of his profession: when he was informed of the young man's extravagance or debauchery, "Let his bondsmen look to that," said he, "I have taken care of myself."

Thus the unhappy spendthrift proceeded from folly to folly, and from vice to vice, with the connivance if not the encouragement of his master; till in the heat of a nocturnal revel he committed such violences in the street as drew upon him a criminal prosecution. Guilty and unexperienced, he knew not what course to take; to confess his crime to CANDIDUS, and solicit his interposition, was little less dreadful than to stand before the frown of a court of justice. Having, therefore, passed the day with anguish in his heart and distraction in his looks, he seized at night a very large sum of money in the counting house, and setting out he knew not whither, was heard of no more.

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The consequence of his flight was the ruin of CANDIDUS ; ruin surely undeserved and irreproachable, and such as the laws of a just government ought either to prevent or repair : nothing is more inequitable than that one man should suffer for the crimes of another, for crimes which he neither prompted nor permitted, which he could neither foresee nor prevent. When we consider the weakness of human resolutions and the inconsistency of human conduct, it must appear absurd that one man shall engage for another, that he will not change his opinions or alter his conduct.

It is, I think, worthy of consideration, whether, since no wager is binding without a possibility of loss on each side, it is not equally reasonable, that no contract should be valid without reciprocal stipulations : but in this case, and others of the same kind, what is stipulated on his side to whom the bond is given ? he takes advantage of the security, neglects his affairs, omits his duty, suffers timorous wickedness to grow daring by degrees, permits appetite to call for new gratifications, and, perhaps, secretly longs for the time in which he shall
have

have power to seize the forfeiture: and if virtue or gratitude should prove too strong for temptation, and a young man persist in honesty, however instigated by his passions, what can secure him at last against a false accusation? I for my part always shall suspect, that he who can by such methods secure his property, will go one step farther to increase it; nor can I think that man safely trusted with the means of mischief, who, by his desire to have them in his hands, gives an evident proof how much less he values his neighbour's happiness than his own.

Another of our companions is LENTULUS, a man whose dignity of birth was very ill supported by his fortune. As some of the first offices in the kingdom were filled by his relations, he was early invited to court, and encouraged by caresses and promises to attendance and solicitation: a constant appearance in splendid company necessarily required magnificence of dress; and a frequent participation of fashionable amusements forced him into expence: but these measures were requisite to his success; since every body knows, that to be lost to sight is to be lost

to

to remembrance, and that he who desires to fill a vacancy, must be always at hand lest some man of greater vigilance should step in before him.

By this course of life his little fortune was every day made less : but he received so many distinctions in public, and was known to resort so familiarly to the houses of the great, that every man looked on his preferment as certain, and believed that its value would compensate for its slowness : he, therefore, found no difficulty in obtaining credit for all that his rank or his vanity made necessary ; and as ready payment was not expected, the bills were proportionably enlarged, and the value of the hazard or delay were adjusted solely by the equity of the creditor. At length death deprived LENTULUS of one of his patrons, and a revolution in the ministry of another ; so that all his prospects vanished at once, and those that had before encouraged his expences, began to perceive that their money was in danger : there was now no other contention but who should first seize upon his person, and, by forcing immediate payment, deliver him up naked to the vengeance of the rest. In

purfuance of this fcheme, one of them invited him to a tavern, and procured him to be arrested at the door; but LENTULUS, instead of endeavouring fecretly to pacify him by payment, gave notice to the reft, and offered to divide amongst them the remnant of his fortune: they feasted fix hours at his expence, to deliberate on his propofal; and at laft determined, that, as he could not offer more than five fhillings in the pound, it would be more prudent to keep him in prifon, till he could procure from his relations the payment of his debts.

LENTULUS is not the only man confined within thefe walls, on the fame account: the like procedure, upon the like motives, is common among men whom yet the law allows to partake the ufe of fire and water with the compaffionate and the juft: who frequent the affemblies of commerce in open day, and talk with detestation and contempt of highwaymen or houfebreakers: but, furely, that man muft be confeffedly robbed: who is compelled, by whatever means, to pay the debts which he does not owe; nor can I look with equal hatred upon him, who, at the hazard of his life, holds out
his

his pistol and demands my purse, as on him who plunders under shelter of the law, and, by detaining my son or my friend in prison, extorts from me the price of their liberty. No man can be more an enemy to society than he, by whose machinations our virtues are turned to our disadvantage; he is less destructive to mankind than plunders cowardice, than he that preys upon compassion.

I believe, Mr. ADVENTURER, you will readily confess, that though not one of these, if tried before a commercial judicature, can be wholly acquitted from imprudence or temerity; yet that, in the eye of all who can consider virtue as distinct from wealth, the fault of two of them, at least, is outweighed by the merit; and that of the third is so much extenuated by the circumstances of his life, as not to deserve a perpetual prison: yet must these, with multitudes equally blameless, languish in confinement, till malevolence shall relent, or the law be changed.

I am, SIR,

T

Your humble servant

MISARGYRUS.

N^o 63. TUESDAY, *June* 12, 1753.

Pereant, qui ante nos nostra dixerunt !

DONATUS apud JEROM.

Perish those ! who have said our good things before us.

THE number of original writers, of writers who discover any traces of native thought, or veins of new expression, is found to be extremely small in every branch of literature. Few possess ability or courage to think for themselves, to trust to their own powers, to rely on their own stock ; and, therefore, the generality creep tamely and cautiously in the track of their predecessors. The quintessence of the largest libraries might be reduced to the compass of a few volumes, if all useless repetitions and acknowledged truths were to be omitted in this process of critical chemistry. A learned Frenchman informs us, that he intended to compile a treatise, *περι των απαξ ειρημενων*, “ concerning things that had been said but ONCE,” which certainly would have been contained in a very small pamphlet.

It happens unfortunately in poetry, which principally claims the merit of novelty and invention, that this want of originality arises frequently not from a barrenness and timidity of genius, but from invincible necessity and the nature of things. The works of those who profess an art whose essence is imitation, must needs be stamped with a close resemblance to each other, since the objects material or animate, extraneous or internal, which they all imitate, lie equally open to the observation of all, and are perfectly similar. Descriptions, therefore, that are faithful and just, must be uniform and alike: the first copier must be, perhaps, entitled to the praise of priority; but a succeeding one ought not certainly to be condemned for plagiarism.

I am inclined to think, that notwithstanding the manifold alterations diffused in modern times over the face of nature, by the invention of arts and manufactures, by the extent of commerce, by the improvements of philosophy and mathematics, by the manner of fortifying and fighting, by the important discovery of both the Indies, and above all by the total change of religion;

yet an epic or dramatic writer, though surrounded with such a multitude of novelties, would find it difficult or impossible to be totally original, and essentially different from HOMER and SOPHOCLES. The causes that excite and the operations that exemplify the greater passions, will always have an exact coincidence, though perhaps a little diversified by climate or custom: every exasperated hero must rage like ACHILLES, and every afflicted widow mourn like ANDROMACHE: an abandoned ARMIDA will make use of DIDO's execrations; and a Jew will nearly resemble a Grecian, when almost placed in the same situation: that is, the IÖAS of RACINE in his incomparable ATHALIA, will be very like the IÖN of EURIPIDES.

BOILEAU observes, that a new and extraordinary thought is by no means a thought which no person ever conceived before, or could possibly conceive; on the contrary, it is such a thought as must have occurred to every man in the like case, and have been one of the first in any person's mind upon the same occasion: and it is a maxim of POPE, that whatever is
very

very good sense must have been common sense at all times.

BUT if from the foregoing reflections it may appear difficult to distinguish imitation and plagiarism from necessary resemblance and unavoidable analogy, yet the following passages of POPE, which because they have never been taken notice of, may possibly entertain curious and critical readers, seem evidently to be borrowed, though they are improved.

THE dying CHRISTIAN addresses his soul with a fine spirit of poetical enthusiasm.

Vital spark of heavenly flame !
Quit, O quit this mortal frame !
Trembling, hoping, ling'ring, flying,
O! the pain, the bliss of dying !—
Hark ; they whisper—Angels say,
Sister spirit, come away !

I was surprized to find this animated passage closely copied from one of the vile Pindaric writers in the time of Charles the second :

When on my sick bed I languish,
Full of sorrow, full of anguish,
Fainting, gasping, trembling, crying,
Panting, groaning, speechless, dying !—

Methinks I hear some gentle spirit say,
Be not fearful, come away !

FLATMAN.

PALINGENIUS and CHARRON furnished him with the two following thoughts in the Essay on man :

Superior beings, when of late they saw
A mortal man unfold all nature's law ;
Admir'd such wisdom in an earthly shape,
And shew'd, a NEWTON, as we shew an ape.

POPE.

*Utque movet nobis imitatrix simia risum,
Sic nos cœlicolis, quoties cervice superba
Ventosi gradimur—*

And again,

*Simia cœlicolum, risusque jocusque deorum est
Tunc homo, quum temerè ingenio confidit, & audet
Abdita naturæ scrutari, arcanaque divum.*

PALINGENIUS,

While man exclaims, " see all things for my use !"
" See man for mine !" replies a pamper'd goose.

POPE.

" Man scruples not to say, that he enjoyeth the heavens
" and the elements ; as if all had been made, and
" still move only for him. In this sense a gosling may
" say as much, and perhaps with more truth and
" justness." CHARRON.

That

That he hath borrowed not only sentiments but even expressions from WOLLASTON and PASCAL cannot be doubted, if we consider two more passages :

When the loose mountain trembles from on high,
Shall gravitation cease if you go by ?
Or some old temple nodding to its fall,
For Chartres' head reserve the hanging wall ?

POPE.

" If a good man be passing by an infirm building, just in the article of falling ; can it be expected that GOD should suspend the force of gravitation till he is gone by in order to his deliverance ?"

WOLLASTON.

Chaos of thought and passion all confus'd,
Still by himself abus'd, or disabus'd ;
Created half to rise, and half to fall ;
Great lord of all things, yet a prey to all ;
Sole judge of truth, in endless error hurl'd,
The glory, jest, and riddle of the world !

POPE.

" What a chimera then is man ! what a confused chaos ! what a subject of contradiction ! a professed judge of all things, and yet a feeble worm of the earth ! the great depositary and guardian of truth, and yet a mere huddle of uncertainty ! the glory and the scandal of the universe !" PASCAL.

The

The witty allusion to the punishment of avarice, in the Epistle on Riches,

Damn'd to the mines, an equal fate betides
The slave that digs it, and the slave that hides ;

is plainly taken from, "The causes of the
"decay of Christian piety," where that excellent and neglected writer says, "It has
"always been held the severest treatment of
"slaves and malefactors," *damnare ad mattella*, "to force them to dig in the mines :
"now this is the covetous man's lot, from
"which he is never to expect a release." COWLEY has also used the same allusion. The celebrated reflection with which CHARTRES's epitaph, in the same epistle, concludes, is the property of BRUYERE.

To rock the cradle of reposing age,

is a tender and elegant image of filial piety, for which POPE is indebted to MONTAGNE, who wishes, in one of his essays, to find a son-in-law that may "kindly cherish his
"old-age, and rock it asleep." And the character of HELLUO the glutton, introduced to exemplify the force and continuance of
the

the ruling passion, who in the agonies of death exclaimed,

—Then bring the Jowl!

is taken from that tale in FONTAINE, which ends,

—*Puis qu'il faut que je meure
Sans faire tant de façon,
Qu'on m'apporte toute à l'heure
Le reste de mon poisson.*

The conclusion of the epitaph on GAY, where he observes that his honour consists not in being entombed among kings and heroes,

But that the worthy and the good may say,
Striking their pensive bosoms—here lies GAY,

is adopted from an old Latin elegy on the death of prince HENRY.

In several parts of his writings, POPE seems to have formed himself on the model of BOILEAU; as might appear from a large deduction of particular passages, almost literally translated from that nervous and sensible satirist.

—Happily to flee
From grave to gay, from lively to severe.

POPE.

—*D'une*

—*D'une voix legere*
Passer du grave au doux, du plaisant au severe !

BOILEAU.

Pride, madness, folly, against DRYDEN rose,
 In various shapes of parsons, critics, beaux.

POPE.

L'ignorance, & l'erreur a ses naissantes pieces,
En habits de marquis, en robes de comtesses,
Venoient pour diffamer son chef d'œuvre nouveau.

BOILEAU.

While I am transcribing these similitudes, I feel great uneasiness, lest I should be accused of vainly and impotently endeavouring to cast clouds over the reputation of this exalted and truly original genius, "whose memory," to use an expression of BEN JONSON, "I do honour, on this side idolatry, as much as any;" and lest the reader should be cloyed and disgusted with a cluster of quotations: it happens, however, fortunately, that each passage I have produced, contains some important moral truth, or conveys some pleasing image of the mind.

Critics seem agreed in giving greater latitude to the imitation of the ancients than of later

later writers. To enrich a composition with the sentiments and images of Greece and Rome, is ever esteemed not only lawful, but meritorious. We adorn our writings with their ideas, with as little scruple, as our houses with their statues. And **POUSSIN** is not accused of plagiarism, for having painted **AGRIPPINA** covering her face with both her hands at the death of **GERMANICUS**; though **TIMANTHES** had represented **AGAMEMNON** closely veiled at the sacrifice of his daughter, judiciously leaving the spectator to guess at a sorrow inexpressible, and that mocked the power of the pencil.

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N^o 64. SATURDAY, *June 16, 1753.*

*Notitiam primosque gradus vicinia fecit;
Tempore crevit amor.*

OVID.

Acquaintance grew, th'acquaintance they improve
To friendship, friendship ripen'd into love.

EUSDEN.

To the ADVENTURER.

SIR,

YOUR paper of last Tuesday se'nnight, which I did not read till to day, determined me to send you an account of my friend EUGENIO, by whose distress my mind has been long kept in perpetual agitation: and, perhaps, my narrative may not only illustrate your allegory, but contribute to recover Opinion from her defec-tion.

AS ORGILLIO, the father of EUGENIO, had no principles but those of a man of honour, he avoided alike both the virtues and the vices which are incompatible with that character: religion he supposed to be a contrivance of priests and politicians, to keep the vulgar in awe; and used by those

those in the rank of gentlemen who pretend to acknowledge its obligations, only as an expedient to conceal their want of spirit. By a conduct regulated upon these principles he gradually reduced a paternal estate of two thousand pounds per annum to five hundred. Besides EUGENIO, he had only one child, a daughter: his wife died while they were infants. His younger brother, who had acquired a very considerable fortune in trade, retired unmarried into the country: he knew that the paternal estate was greatly reduced: and, therefore, took the expence of his nephew's education upon himself: after some years had been spent at Westminster school, he sent him to the university, and supported him by a very genteel annuity.

EUGENIO, though his temper was remarkably warm and sprightly, had yet a high relish of literature, and insensibly acquired a strong attachment to a college life. His apartment adjoined to mine, and our acquaintance was soon improved into friendship. I found in him great ardour of benevolence, and a sense of generosity and honour which I had conceived to consist

sift only in romance. With respect to CHRISTIANITY, indeed, he was as yet a sceptic: but I found it easy to obviate general objections; and, as he had great penetration and sagacity, was superior to prejudice, and habituated to no vice which he wished to countenance by infidelity, he began to believe as soon as he began to enquire: the evidence for REVELATION at length appeared incontestible; and without busying himself with the cavils of subtilty against particular doctrines, he determined to adhere inviolably to the precepts as a rule of life, and to trust in the promises as the foundation of hope. The same ardour and firmness, the same generosity and honour, were now exercised with more exalted views, and upon a more perfect plan. He considered me as his preceptor, and I considered him as my example: our friendship increased every day; and I believe he had conceived a design to follow me into orders. But when he had continued at college about two years, he received a command from his father to come immediately to town: for that his earnest desire to place him in the army was now accomplished,
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and he had procured him a captain's commission. By the same post he received a letter from his uncle, in which he was strongly urged to continue at college, with promises of succeeding to his whole estate; his father's project was zealously condemned, and his neglect of a brother's concurrence resented. EUGENIO, though it was greatly his desire to continue at college, and his interest to oblige his uncle, yet obeyed his father without the least hesitation.

When he came to town, he discovered that a warm altercation had been carried on between his uncle and his father upon this subject: his uncle, not being able to produce any effect upon the father, as a last effort had written to the son; and being equally offended with both, when his application to both had been equally ineffectual, he reproached him with folly and ingratitude; and dying soon after by a fall from his horse, it appeared, that in the height of his resentment he had left his whole fortune to a distant relation in Ireland whom he had never seen.

Under this misfortune EUGENIO comforted himself by reflecting, that he had in-

curred it by obedience to his father ; and though it precluded hopes that were dearer than life, yet he never expressed his displeasure either by invective or complaint.

ORGILLIO had very early in life contracted an intimacy with AGRESTIS, a gentleman whose character and principles were very different from his own. AGRESTIS had very just notions of right and wrong, by which he regulated his conduct without any regard to the opinion of others : his integrity was universal and inflexible, and his temper ardent and open ; he abhorred whatever had the appearance of dissimulation, he was extremely jealous of his authority, and there was a rough simplicity in his manners which many circumstances of his life had contributed to produce. His father left him a fortune of two hundred thousand pounds ; but as the parsimony which enabled him to amass it, extended to the education of his son by whom it was to be possessed, he had been taught neither politeness nor literature. He married a lady, whose influence would have polished the rough diamond by degrees ; but she died within the first year of her marriage, leaving him a daughter to whom he

he gave her name AMELIA, and transferred all his affection : he, therefore, continued to live in great privacy ; and being used to have only servants and dependents about him, he indulged the peculiarities of his humour without that complaisance which becomes insensibly habitual to those who mix in the company of persons whom it is their apparent interest to please, and whose presence is a perpetual restraint upon such irregular starts of temper as would incur contempt by arrogating a superiority which none would acknowledge. To this disposition his daughter accommodated herself as she grew up, from motives both of affection and duty : as he knew and regretted the defect of his own education, he spared no cost to complete her's ; and she is indeed the most accomplished character I ever knew : her obedience is cheerful and implicit, her affection tender and without parade ; her looks express the utmost sweetness and sensibility, and yet there is a dignity in her manner which commands respect.

The intimacy between the father of EUGENIO and AGRESTIS produced a tender

friendship between his sister and AMELIA, which began in their infancy, and increased with their years.

Such characters as AMELIA and EUGENIO could not be long familiarly known to each other, without exciting mutual esteem : the transition from esteem to love, between persons of different sexes, is often imperceptible even to themselves ; and, perhaps, was not discovered till long after it had happened, either by EUGENIO or AMELIA. When he returned from the university, she was about eighteen : as her stature and her beauty were greatly increased during this interval, their first effect upon EUGENIO was proportionably greater ; and he perceived from whatever cause, a more sensible emotion in her. He had too much discernment not to discover that she loved him ; and too much generosity not to conceal his love of her, because he was so much her inferior in fortune : sometimes he reflected upon her partiality with pleasure, and sometimes with regret : but while they were thus mutually conscious to desires which they mutually suppressed, the late rebellion broke out, and EUGENIO was commanded into Scotland.

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In this expedition he distinguished himself equally by his courage and humanity : and though he had not much money, and therefore could but seldom display his bounty : yet his concern for the real interest of his men was so apparent, as well in such acts of kindness as were in his power, as in the strict discipline which he maintained among them, that his personal influence was very powerful and extensive. During this absence, though he felt his passion for AMELIA increase, notwithstanding all his attempts to suppress it ; yet he never wrote to her, but contented himself with mentioning her in general terms, and including her in his remembrance of other friends, when he wrote to his father and his sister.

When he returned, as his sister's intimacy with AMELIA still continued, his opportunities to see her were equally frequent : but the pleasure of those interviews were become yet more tumultuous and confused ; and the lovers were both conscious, that their sentiments were every moment involuntarily discovered to each other.

AMELIA had dismissed many suitors, who were not less distinguished by their merit than

their rank, because she still hoped to enrich EUGENIO with her fortune ; and EUGENIO persisted in a conduct by which this hope was disappointed, because he would not degrade AMELIA by an alliance with dependance and poverty. The objection of duty might, indeed, have been removed by obtaining the consent of AGRESTIS ; but those of honour would have still remained : he was not, however, absolutely without hope ; for though he had lost his uncle's fortune by obedience to his father, yet as he had greatly recommended himself to his commanding officer, who was of the highest rank, he believed it possible that he might be advanced to a post in the army, which would justify his pretensions to AMELIA, and remove all his difficulties at once.

AGRESTIS wondered at the conduct of his daughter, but neither asked nor suspected her motives : for he had always declared, that as he believed she would never marry against his consent, he would never urge her to marry against her own inclination.

AMELIA, therefore, continued to decline every offer, and EUGENIO to see her almost every day without the least intimation of his love,

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till the beginning of the last winter, when he lost his sister by the small-pox. His interviews with AMELIA were now less frequent, and, therefore, more interesting: he feared, that as he would be seldom in her sight, the assiduities of some fortunate rival might at length exclude him from her remembrance: he did not, however, falter in his resolution, nor did AMELIA change her conduct.

N^o 65. TUESDAY, June 19, 1753.

Et furiis agitatus amor. —

VIRG.

Love, which the furies irritate to rage.

IT happened that about this time she was addressed by VENTOSUS, the eldest son of a noble family; who, besides a large estate, had great expectations from his father's influence at court. VENTOSUS, though he was strongly recommended by AGRESTIS, and was remarkable for personal accomplishments, was yet received with great coldness by AMELIA: he was surprised, mortified, and disappointed; yet he continued his visits, and was very diligent to discover what had prevented his success. One evening, just as

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he was about to take his leave, after much ineffectual entreaty and complaint, EUGENIO unexpectedly entered the room. VENTOSUS instantly remarked the embarrassment both of his mistress and the stranger, whom he therefore supposed to be a rival, and no longer wondered at his own disappointment: these suspicions were every moment confirmed and increased: for his presence produced emotions which could neither be concealed nor mistaken; though by a less penetrating eye than that of jealousy, they might have been overlooked.

He was now fired with resentment and indignation; and having left the room somewhat abruptly, he was met upon the stairs by AGRESTIS, with whom he desired to speak a few words in private. AGRISTIS turned back into another apartment, and VENTOSUS told him with some warmth, that he did not expect to have found his daughter pre-engaged; and that he could not help thinking himself ill-treated. AGRESTIS, with equal warmth, required him to explain his meaning: and after some time had been spent in eager altercation, they parted in better temper; AGRESTIS persuaded that a clandestine

clandestine love had been carried on between his daughter and EUGENIO, and VENTOSUS convinced that AGRESTIS had never encouraged the pretensions of his rival.

AGRESTIS immediately sent for AMELIA, and sternly urged her with many questions, which she could only answer with blushes and tears: her silence and confusion convinced him that VENTOSUS was not mistaken; and, therefore, desisting from enquiry, he severely reprehended her for the past, and enjoined her never to converse with EUGENIO again; to whom he also signified his displeasure, and requested that to prevent farther uneasiness he would come no more to his house till AMELIA should be married.

EUGENIO, though his love was almost hopeless before, was yet greatly afflicted by this message; because he feared that AMELIA had fallen under her father's displeasure, and that now he was become jealous of his authority he might be tempted to abuse it. As to secure her peace was the principal object of his wish, he concealed what had happened from his father, lest a quarrel should be produced between him and AGRESTIS, in which AMELIA's delicacy
and

and tenderness would be yet more deeply wounded. When a visit was intended to AGRESTIS, he always took care to have some engagement at another place: AGRESTIS, however, as he had no conception of the principles upon which EUGENIO acted, did not doubt but that he had communicated the reason of his absence to his father, and that his father was secretly offended; but as he expressed no resentment, he believed that his ambition had for once restrained the petulance of his pride, that he dissembled to prevent an open rupture, and had still hopes of effecting the purpose which he had concerted with his son.

A suspicion of ill-will always produces it; but besides this cause of alienation, AGRESTIS had unjustly imputed a conduct to his friend, which rendered him the object of his contempt and aversion; he, therefore, treated him with coldness and reserve, supposing that he well knew the cause, and neglected to return his visits without thinking it necessary to assign any reason. This conduct was at length remarked by ORGILLIO, who considered it as the caprice of a character which he always despised; he, therefore, retorted the neglect

neglect without expostulation : and thus all intercourse between the families was at an end.

EUGENIO in the mean time was inflexible in his purpose ; and AMELIA, in her next interview with VENTOSUS, acquainted him that she would see him no more. VENTOSUS again appealed to her father : but the old gentleman was steady in his principles, notwithstanding his resentment ; and told him that he had exerted all the authority which GOD and nature had given him in his favour ; and that, however provoked, he would never prostitute his child, by compelling her to marry a person who was not the object of her choice.

VENTOSUS, who was extremely mortified at this disappointment, was very inquisitive about EUGENIO, for whom he still supposed he had been rejected ; he soon learned his situation and circumstances, and his long intimacy with AMELIA ; he reflected upon the confusion which both had expressed in the accidental interview at which he was present ; and was willing to believe, that his rival, however contemptible, had been too successful to be supplanted with honour by
a husband :

a husband : this, however, if he did not believe, he was very diligent to propagate; and to remove the disgrace of a refusal, hinted that for this reason he had abruptly discontinued his addresses, and congratulated himself upon his escape.

It happened that about six weeks ago, VENTOSUS, as he was walking in the Mall with a young officer of distinction, met AMELIA in company of several ladies and a gentleman. He thought fit to bow to AMELIA with a supercilious respect, which had greatly the air of an insult : of this compliment AMELIA, though she looked him in the face, took no notice : by this calm disdain he was at once disappointed and confounded ; he was stung by an effort of his own malignity, and his breast swelled with passion which he could not vent. In this agitation of mind he hastily turned back, and determined for, whatever reason, to follow her. After he had advanced about fifty paces, he saw EUGENIO coming forward, who the moment he perceived AMELIA, turned into another walk. This was observed by VENTOSUS, whose contempt and indignation had now another object, upon

which they might without violence to the laws of honour be gratified : he communicated his purpose to his companion, and hastily followed EUGENIO. When they had overtaken him they burst into a horse-laugh, and pushed so rudely by him, that he could scarce recover his step: they did not, however, go on ; but stopping suddenly, turned about as if to apologise for the accident, and affected great surprise at discovering to whom it had happened. VENTOSUS bowed very low, and with much contemptuous ceremony begged his pardon ; telling him at the same time, that there was a lady in the next walk who would be very glad of his company. To this insult EUGENIO answered, “ That he was not willing to suppose that an affront was intended, and “ that if the lady he meant was a woman of “ honour, she ought always to be mentioned “ with respect.” VENTOSUS replied, “ That “ whether the lady he meant was a woman of “ honour he would not determine; but he believed she had been very very kind ; and “ was pleased to see that her favours were not “ forgotten, though they were no longer accepted.” EUGENIO was not now master
of

of his temper, but turning suddenly upon VENTOSUS struck him with such violence that he fell at his feet : he rose, however, in an instant, and laid his hand upon his sword, but was prevented from drawing it by his companion, and the crowd beginning to gather about them, they parted with mutual expressions of contempt and rage.

In the morning the officer who had been in company with VENTOSUS at the quarrel, delivered a challenge to EUGENIO, which he answered by the following billet.

“SIR,

“**Y**OUR behaviour last night has convinced me that you are a scoundrel ;
“and your letter this morning that you are
“a fool. If I should accept your challenge,
“I should myself be both. I owe a duty
“to GOD and to my country, which I
“deem it infamous to violate ; and I am intrusted with a life, which I think cannot
“without folly be staked against yours. I
“believe you have ruined, but you cannot
“degrade me. You may possibly, while
“you sneer over this letter, secretly exult in
“your own safety ; but remember that to
“prevent

“ prevent affassination I have a sword, and
 “ to chastise insolence a cane.”

With this letter, the captain returned to VENTOSUS, who read it with all the extravagancies of rage and disdain: the captain, however, endeavoured to soothe and encourage him; he represented EUGENIO as a poltroon and a beggar, whom he ought no otherwise to punish than by removing him from the rank into which he had intruded; and this, he said, would be very easily accomplished. VENTOSUS at length acquiesced in the sentiments of his friend; and it was soon industriously reported, that EUGENIO had struck a person of high rank, and refused him the satisfaction of a gentleman which he had condescended to ask. For not accepting a challenge, EUGENIO could not be legally punished, because it was made his duty as a soldier by the articles of war; but it drew upon him the contempt of his superior officers, and made them very solicitous to find some pretence to dismiss him. The friends of VENTOSUS immediately intimated, that the act of violence to which EUGENIO had been provoked, was committed within the verge of the court, and
 was

was, therefore, a sufficient cause to break him; as for that offence he was liable to be punished with the loss of his hand, by a law which though disused was still in force. This expedient was eagerly adopted, and EUGENIO was accordingly deprived of his commission.

Nº 66. SATURDAY, June 23, 1753.

*Nolo virum, facili redimit qui sanguine famam:
Hunc volo, laudari qui sine morte potest.*

MART.

Not him I prize who poorly gains
From death the palm which blood distains;
But him who wins with nobler strife
An unpolluted wreath from life.

HE had concealed his quarrel with VENTOSUS from his father, who was then at the family-seat about twenty miles from London, because he was not willing to acquaint him with the cause: but the effect was such as could not be hidden: and it was now become necessary that he should anticipate the report of others. He, therefore, set out immediately for the country; but his father about the same time arrived in

in London: some imperfect account had been sent him of the proceedings against EUGENIO; and though he concluded from his silence that he had been guilty of some indiscretion, yet he did not suspect an imputation of cowardice; and hoped by his interest to support him against private resentment. When he found that he had missed EUGENIO in some of the avenues to town, he went immediately to the gentleman who had procured his commission, from whom he learned all the circumstances of the affair. The moment he heard that his son had refused a challenge, he was seized with rage so violent, that it had the appearance of distraction: he uttered innumerable oaths and execrations in a voice that was scarce human, declared his son to be unworthy of his name, and solemnly renounced him for ever.

EUGENIO returned to London the same day, but it was late before he arrived: the servant that opened the door told him with tears in his eyes, that his father was gone to bed much disordered, and had commanded that he should no more be admitted into that house. He stood motionless a few moments: and then departing without reply,

came directly to me : his looks were wild, his countenance pale, and his eyes swimming in tears : the moment he saw me, he threw himself into a chair ; and putting a copy of his answer to VENTOSUS's challenge into my hand, anticipated my enquiries by relating all that had happened.

After having administered such consolation as I could, I prevailed upon him with much difficulty to go to bed. I sat up the rest of the night, devising various arguments to convince ORGILLIO, that his son had added new dignity to his character. In the morning I went to his house ; and after much solicitation was admitted to his chamber. I found him in his bed, where he had lain awake all the night ; and it was easy to see that his mind was in great agitation. I hoped that this tumult was produced by the struggles of parental tenderness : but the moment I mentioned his son, he fell into an agony of rage that rendered him speechless ; and I came away, convinced that the eloquence of an angel upon the same subject would have been without effect. I did not, however, relate these discouraging circumstances to EUGENIO : I told him that it
would

would be proper to wait a few days before any farther application was made; not only because his father's resentment would probably subside, but because he was now indisposed.

EUGENIO, when he heard that his father was ill, changed colour and burst into tears. He went every evening, and knocking softly at the servant's window, enquired how he did; and when he found that his fever was become dangerous, he intreated me to go yet once more and intercede for him, that he might at least be permitted to see his father, if he might not hope to be forgiven. I went; but when ORGILLIO heard my name, he fell into a fresh transport of rage, which ended in a delirium. The effect which this incident produced upon EUGENIO, who waited at the end of the street for my return, cannot be described: I prevailed upon him to go back to my house, where he sometimes hastily traversed the room, and sometimes sat fixed in a kind of stupid insensibility upon the floor. While he was in one of these fits, news was brought that his father was dead, and had the morning after he was taken ill disinherited him, declaring that by

the infamy of his conduct he had broke his heart.

EUGENIO heard this account without any apparent surprise or emotion, but could not be persuaded to change his posture or receive any food; till his spirits being quite exhausted, sleep relieved him a few hours from the agony of his mind.

The night on which his father was buried, he wrapped himself up in a horseman's coat that belonged to my servant, and followed the procession at a distance on foot. When the ceremony was over, and the company departed, he threw himself on the grave; and hiding his face in the dust, wept over it in silence that was interrupted only by groans. I, who had followed him unperceived, did not think it prudent to intrude upon the solemnity of his sorrow, till the morning dawned: he was surpris'd, and I thought somewhat confounded to see me; he suffered me, however, to lead him away, but neither of us uttered a word.

He told me the next day, that he would trouble me a few nights longer for a lodging, and in the mean time think of some means by which he might obtain a subsistence:

sistence: he was indeed, totally destitute, without money and without a profession; but he made no complaint, and obstinately refused all pecuniary assistance.

In less than a week afterwards, having converted his watch, his sword, a snuff-box, and ring, into money, he engaged as a common sailor in a private undertaking to discover the north-west passage to India.

When he communicated this desperate enterprize, he appeared perfectly composed; "My dear friend," said he, "it has been always my point of honour to obey the commands of GOD, the prime authour of my being and the ultimate object of my hope, at whatever risque; and I do not repent that I have steadily adhered to this principle at the expence of all that is valuable upon earth: I have suffered the loss of fortune, of love, and of fame; but I have preserved my integrity, and I know that I shall not lose my reward. To these I would, indeed, add the esteem, though not the love of AMELIA. She will hear of me as degraded and disinherited, a coward,

“ard, a vagabond, and a fugitive; and her
“esteem, I think, I have sufficient reason
“to give up: grief will wound her deeper
“er than contempt; it is, therefore, best
“that she should despise me. Some of
“those, by whom she is addressed, deserve
“her: and, I ought not to withhold a felicity
“city which I cannot enjoy. I shall embark
“bark to-morrow; and your friendly embrace
“brace is all the good that I expect to
“receive from this country, when I depart
“in search of others which are unknown.”

To this address I was not in a condition to reply; and perceiving that I was overwhelmed with grief, he left me, perhaps, lest his purpose should be shaken, and my weakness should prove contagious.

On the morrow I attended him to the ship. He talked to me of indifferent things; and when we parted wrung my hand, and turned from me abruptly without speaking. I hastened into the boat which waited to bring me on shore, and would not again feel the pangs of yesterday for all the kingdoms of the world.

Such is the friend I have lost! such is the man, whom the world has disgraced

graced for refusing a challenge ; but none who are touched with pity at his misfortunes, wish that he had avoided them by another conduct ; and not to pity EUGENIO, is surely to be a monster rather than a man.

It may, perhaps, be questioned, whether I ought thus to have exhibited his story under feigned names ; or have a right to attempt that which he forbore. My love to him, is, indeed, my motive : but I think my conduct is just, when I consider, that though it is possible that AMELIA may, by the perusal of these papers, suffer the most tender, and, therefore, the most exquisite distress, by the re-establishment of her esteem for him who most deserves it ; yet the world may derive new virtue, from the dignity which the character of EUGENIO reflects upon his conduct : his example is truly illustrious ; and as it can scarce fail to excite emulation, it ought not to be concealed.

I am, SIR,

Your humble servant,

BENEVOLUS.

N^o 67. TUESDAY, *June* 26, 1753.*Inventas—vitam excoluere per artes.* VIRG.

They polish life by useful arts.

THAT familiarity produces neglect, has been long observed. The effect of all external objects, however great or splendid, ceases with their novelty ; the courtier stands without emotion in the royal presence ; the rustic tramples under his foot the beauties of the spring, with little attention to their colour or their fragrance ; and the inhabitant of the coast darts his eyes upon the immense diffusion of waters, without awe, wonder, or terror.

Those who have past much of their lives in this great city, look upon its opulence and its multitudes, its extent and variety, with cold indifference ; but an inhabitant of the remoter parts of the kingdom is immediately distinguished by a kind of dissipated curiosity, a busy endeavour to divide his attention amongst a thousand objects, and a wild confusion of astonishment and alarm.

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The attention of a new-comer is generally first struck by the multiplicity of cries that stun him in the streets, and the variety of merchandise and manufactures which the shopkeepers expose on every hand; and he is apt, by unwary bursts of admiration, to excite the merriment and contempt of those, who mistake the use of their eyes for effects of their understanding, and confound accidental knowledge with just reasoning.

But, surely, these are subjects on which any man may without reproach employ his meditations: the innumerable occupations, among which the thousands that swarm in the streets of London, are distributed, may furnish employment to minds of every cast, and capacities of every degree. He that contemplates the extent of this wonderful city, finds it difficult to conceive, by what method plenty is maintained in our markets, and how the inhabitants are regularly supplied with the necessities of life; but when he examines the shops and warehouses, sees the immense stores of every kind of merchandise piled up for sale, and runs over all the manufactures of art and products of nature, which are every where attracting his eye and soli-
citing

citing his purse, he will be inclined to conclude, that such quantities cannot easily be exhausted, and that part of mankind must soon stand still for want of employment, till the wares already provided shall be worn out and destroyed.

As SOCRATES was passing through the fair at Athens, and casting his eyes over the shops and customers, "how many things are here," says he, "that I do not want!" The same sentiment is every moment rising in the mind of him that walks the streets of London, however inferior in philosophy to SOCRATES: he beholds a thousand shops crowded with goods, of which he can scarcely tell the use, and which, therefore, he is apt to consider as of no value; and, indeed, many of the arts by which families are supported, and wealth is heaped together, are of that minute and superfluous kind, which nothing but experience could evince possibly to be prosecuted with advantage, and which, as the world might easily want, it could scarcely be expected to encourage.

But so it is, that custom, curiosity, or wantonness, supplies every art with patrons, and finds purchasers for every manufacture;
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the world is so adjusted, that not only bread, but riches may be obtained without great abilities, or arduous performances : the most unskilful hand and unenlightened mind have sufficient incitements to industry ; for he that is resolutely busy, can scarcely be in want. There is, indeed, no employment, however despicable, from which a man may not promise himself more than competence, when he sees thousands and myriads raised to dignity, by no other merit than that of contributing to supply their neighbours with the means of sucking smoke through a tube of clay ; and others raising contributions upon those, whose elegance disdains the grossness of smoky luxury, by grinding the same materials into a powder that may at once gratify and impair the smell.

Not only by these popular and modish trifles, but by a thousand unheeded and evanescent kinds of business, are the multitudes of this city preserved from idleness, and consequently from want. In the endless variety of tastes and circumstances that diversify mankind, nothing is so superfluous, but that some one desires it : or so common, but that some one is compelled to buy it. As
nothing

nothing is useless but because it is in improper hands, what is thrown away by one is gathered up by another ; and the refuse of part of mankind furnishes a subordinate class with the materials necessary to their support.

When I look round upon those who are thus variously exerting their qualifications, I cannot but admire the secret concatenation of society, that links together the great and the mean, the illustrious and the obscure ; and consider with benevolent satisfaction, that no man, unless his body or mind be totally disabled, has need to suffer the mortification of seeing himself useless or burthensome to the community : he that will diligently labour, in whatever occupation, will deserve the sustenance which he obtains, and the protection which he enjoys ; and may lie down every night with the pleasing consciousness, of having contributed something to with the happiness of life.

Contempt and admiration are equally incident to narrow minds : he whose comprehension can take in the whole subordination of mankind, and whose perspicacity can pierce to the real state of things through the thin veils of fortune or of fashion, will discover
meanneſs

meannefs in the higheft ftations, and dignity in the meaneft ; and find that no man can become venerable but by virtue, or contemptible but by wickednefs.

In the midft of this univerfal hurry, no man ought to be fo little influenced by example, or fo void of honeft emulation, as to ftand a lazy fpectator of inceffant labour : or pleafe himfelf with the mean happinefs of a drone, while the active fwarms are buzzing about him : no man is without fome quality, by the due application of which he might deferve well of the world ; and whoever he be that has but little in his power, fhould be in hafte to do that little, left he be confounded with him that can do nothing.

By this general concurrence of endeavours, arts of every kind have been fo long cultivated, that all the wants of man may be immediately fupplied ; idlenefs can fcarcely form a wifh which fhe may not gratify by the toil of others, or curiofity dream of a toy, which the fhops are not ready to afford her.

Happinefs is enjoyed only in proportion as it is known ; and fuch is the ftate or folly of man, that it is known only by experience of
its

its contrary ; we who have long lived amidst the conveniences of a town immensely populous, have scarce an idea of a place where desire cannot be gratified by money. In order to have a just sense of this artificial plenty, it is necessary to have passed some time in a distant colony, or those parts of our island which are thinly inhabited : he that has once known how many trades every man in such situations is compelled to exercise, with how much labour the products of nature must be accommodated to human use, how long the loss or defect of any common utensil must be endured, or by what awkward expedients it must be supplied, how far men may wander with money in their hands before any can sell them what they wish to buy, will know how to rate at its proper value the plenty and ease of a great city.

But that the happiness of man may still remain imperfect, as wants in this place are easily supplied, new wants likewise are easily created : every man, in surveying the shops of London, sees numberless instruments and conveniences, of which, while he did not know them, he never felt the need ; and yet, when use has made them familiar, wonders

ders how life could be supported without them. Thus it comes to pass, that our desires always increase with our possessions; the knowledge that something remains yet unenjoyed, impairs our enjoyment of the good before us.

They who have been accustomed to the refinements of science, and multiplications of contrivance, soon lose their confidence in the unassisted powers of nature, forget the paucity of our real necessities, and overlook the easy methods by which they may be supplied. It were a speculation worthy of a philosophical mind, to examine how much is taken away from our native abilities, as well as added to them, by artificial expedients. We are so accustomed to give and receive assistance, that each of us singly can do little for himself; and there is scarce any one among us, however contracted may be his form of life, who does not enjoy the labour of a thousand artists.

But a survey of the various nations that inhabit the earth will inform us, that life may be supported with less assistance; that the dexterity, which practice enforced
by

by necessity produces, is able to effect much by very scanty means. The nations of Mexico and Peru erected cities and temples without the use of iron; and at this day the rude Indian supplies himself with all the necessaries of life: sent like the rest of mankind naked into the world, as soon as his parents have nursed him up to strength, he is to provide by his own labour for his own support. His first care is to find a sharp flint among the rocks; with this he undertakes to fell the trees of the forest; he shapes his bow, heads his arrows, builds his cottage, and hollows his canoe, and from that time lives in a state of plenty and prosperity; he is sheltered from the storms, he is fortified against beasts of prey, he is enabled to pursue the fish of the sea, and the deer of the mountains; and as he does not know, does not envy the happiness of polished nations, where gold can supply the want of fortitude and skill, and he whose laborious ancestors have made him rich, may lie stretched upon a couch, and see all the treasures of all the elements poured down before him.

This

This picture of a savage life, if it shews how much individuals may perform, shews likewise how much society is to be desired. Though the perseverance and address of the Indian excite our admiration, they nevertheless cannot procure him the conveniences which are enjoyed by the vagrant beggar of a civilized country : he hunts like a wild beast to satisfy his hunger : and when he lies down to rest after a successful chase, cannot pronounce himself secure against the danger of perishing in a few days ; he is, perhaps, content with his condition, because he knows not that a better is attainable by man ; as he that is born blind does not long for the perception of light, because he cannot conceive the advantages which light would afford him ; but hunger, wounds and weariness are real evils, though he believes them equally incident to all his fellow-creatures ; and when a tempest compels him to lie starving in his hut, he cannot justly be concluded equally happy with those whom art has exempted from the power of chance, and who make the foregoing year provide for the following.

To receive and to communicate assistance, constitutes the happiness of human life : man may indeed preserve his existence in solitude but can enjoy it only in society ; the greatest understanding of an individual, doomed to procure food and cloathing for himself, will barely supply him with expedients to keep off death from day to day ; but as one of a larger community performing only his share of the common business, he gains leisure for intellectual pleasures, and enjoys the happiness of reason and reflection.

N^o 68. SATURDAY, June 30, 1753.

Nocet empty dolore voluptas.

OVID.

How vain the joy for which our pain must pay.

IT has been remarked, that the play of brutes is always a mock fight ; and perhaps, this is equally true of all the sports that have been invented by reason for the amusement of mankind. The celebrated games of antiquity were something more ; the conflict was often fatal, and the pleasure of the spectators seems to have been proportioned to the danger of the combatants :
nor

nor does it appear, that any sport has been since contrived, which can gratify pure benevolence, or entertain without producing an opposition of interest. There are, indeed, many external advantages which it has never been thought immoral to acquire, though an opposition of interest is necessarily implied; advantages, which, like a stake at cards, one party can only gain by the loss of the other: for wealth and poverty, obscurity and distinction, command and servitude, are mutually relative, and the existence of each is by each reciprocally derived and given.

Play, therefore, is not unlawful, merely as a contest; nor can the pleasure of them that win, be imputed to a criminal want of benevolence, in this state of imperfection, merely because it is enjoyed at the expence of those who lose. But as in business, it has never been held lawful to circumvent those whom we desire to excel; so in play, the chance of loss and gain ought to be always equal; at least, each party should be apprized of the force employed against him; and if then he plays against odds, no man has a right to enquire his motive though a good man would decline to engage him.

There is, however, one species of diversion which has not been generally condemned, though it is produced by an attack upon those who have not voluntarily entered the lists ; who find themselves buffeted in the dark, and have neither means of defence nor possibility of advantage.

These feats are atchieved by the knights-errant of mirth, and known by the name of FROLICS : under this name, indeed, many species of wanton cruelty have been practised without incurring the infamy, or raising the indignation which they deserve ; and it is extremely difficult to fix upon any certain criterion, by which frolics may be distinguished into criminal and innocent. If we could discern effects while they are involved in their causes, and ascertain every remote consequence of our own actions, perhaps these fallies might be allowed under the same restrictions as raillery : the false alarms and ridiculous distress into which others are betrayed to make us sport, should be such only as will be subjects of merriment even to the sufferer when they are past, and remembered neither with resentment nor regret : but as every action may produce effects over which human
power

power has no influence, and which human sagacity cannot foresee ; we should not lightly venture to the verge of evil, nor strike at others though with a reed, lest like the rod of MOSES it become a serpent in our hands.

During the hard frost in the year MDCCXL, four young gentlemen of considerable rank rode into an inn, near one of the principal avenues to this city, at eleven o' clock at night, without any attendant ; and having expressed uncommon concern about their horses, and overlooked the provision that was made for them, called for a room ; ordering wine and tobacco to be brought in, and declaring, that as they were to set out very early in the morning, it was not worth while to go to bed. Before the waiter returned, each of them had laid a pocket pistol upon the table, which when he entered they appeared to be very solicitous to conceal, and shewed some confusion at the surprize. They perceived with great satisfaction, that the fellow was alarmed at his discovery ; and having upon various pretences called him often into the room, one of them contrived to pull out a mask with his handkerchief from the

pocket of a horseman's coat. They discoursed in dark and ambiguous terms, affected a busy and anxious circumspection, urged the man often to drink, and seemed desirous to render him subservient to some purpose which they were unwilling to discover. They endeavoured to conciliate his good-will, by extravagant commendations of his dexterity, and diligence, and encouraged him to familiarity, by asking him many questions: he was, however, still cautious and reserved; one of them, therefore, pretending to have known his mother, put a crown into his hand, and soon after took an opportunity to ask him at what hour a stage-coach, the passengers of which they intended to HUMBLED, set out in the morning, whether it was full, and if it was attended with a guard.

The man was now confirmed in his suspicions; and though he had accepted the bribe, resolved to discover the secret. Having evaded the questions with as much art as he could, he went to his master, Mr. Spiggot, who was then in bed, and acquainted him with what he had observed.

Mr.

Mr. *Spiggot*, immediately got up, and held a consultation with his wife what was to be done. She advised him immediately to send for the constable with proper assistants, and secure them: but he considered, that as this would probably prevent a robbery, it would deprive him of an opportunity to gain a very considerable sum, which he would become entitled to upon their conviction, if he could apprehend them after the fact; he, therefore, very prudently called up four or five of the ostlers that belonged to the yard, and having communicated his suspicions and design, engaged them to enlist under his command as an escort to the coach, and to watch the motions of the highwaymen as he should direct. But mine host also wisely considering, that this expedition would be attended with certain expence, and that the profit, which he hoped, was contingent, acquainted the passengers with their danger, and proposed that a guard should be hired by a voluntary contribution; a proposal, to which, upon a sight of the robbers through the window, they readily agreed. *Spiggot* was now secured against pecuniary loss at all

events, and about three o'clock the knights of the frolic with infinite satisfaction beheld five passengers, among whom there was but one gentleman, step into the coach with the aspect of criminals going to execution; and enjoyed the significant signs which passed between them and the landlord, concerning the precautions taken for their defence.

As soon as the coach was gone, the supposed highwaymen paid their reckoning in great haste, and called for their horses; care had already been taken to saddle them; for it was not Mr. Spiggot's desire that the adventurers should go far before they executed their purpose; and as soon as they departed he prepared to follow them with his posse. He was, indeed, greatly surprised to see, that they turned the contrary way when they went out of the inn-yard; but he supposed they might chuse to take a small circuit to prevent suspicion, as they might easily overtake the coach whenever they would; he determined, however, to keep behind them; and, therefore, instead of going after the coach, followed them at a distance, till to his utter disappointment

ment he saw them persist in a different rout, and at length turn into an inn in Piccadilly, where several servants in livery appeared to have been waiting for them, and where his curiosity was soon gratified with their characters and their names.

In the mean time the coach proceeded in its journey. The panic of the passengers increased upon perceiving that the guard which they had hired did not come up; and they began to accuse Spiggot, of having betrayed them to the robbers for a share of the booty: they could not help looking every moment from the window, though it was so dark that a waggon could not have been seen at the distance of twenty yards: every tree was mistaken for a man and horse, the noise of the vehicle in which they rode was believed to be the trampling of pursuers, and they expected every moment to hear the coachman commanded to stop, and to see a pistol thrust in among them with the dreadful injunction, "Deliver your money."

Thus far the distress, however great and unmerited, will be deemed ridiculous; the sufferers will appear to have ingeniously
tormented

tormented themselves, by the sagacity with which they reasoned from appearances intended to deceive them, and their solicitude to prevent mischiefs which none would attempt.

But it happened that when the coach had got about two miles out of town, it was overtaken by a horseman who rode very hard, and called out with great eagerness to the driver to stop: this incident, among persons who had suffered perpetual apprehension and alarm from the moment they set out, produced a proportionate effect. The wife of the gentleman was so terrified, that she sunk down from her seat; and he was so much convinced of his danger, so touched at her distress, and so incensed against the ruffian who had produced it, that without uttering a word, he drew a pistol from his pocket, and seeing the man parley with the coachman who had now stopped his horses, he shot him dead upon the spot.

The man, however, who had thus fallen the victim of a frolic, was soon known to be the servant of a lady who had paid earnest for the vacant place in the stage; and having by some accident been delayed till it
was

was set out, had followed it in a hackney coach, and sent him before her to detain it till she came up.

Here the ridicule is at an end ; and we are surprized that we did not sooner reflect, that the company had sufficient cause for their fear and their precaution, and that the frolic was nothing more than a lie, which it would have been folly not to believe, and presumption to disregard.

The next day, while the Bucks were entertaining a polite circle at White's with an account of the farce they had played the night before, news arrived of the catastrophe. A sudden confusion covered every countenance ; and they remained some time silent, looking upon each other, mutually accused, reproached and condemned.

This favourable moment was improved by a gentleman, who, though sometimes seen in that assembly, is yet eminent for his humanity and his wisdom. " A man," said he, " who found himself bewildered in the intricacies of a labyrinth, when the sun was going down, would think himself happy, if a clue should be put into his hand by which he might be led out in safety : he would
not

“ not, surely, quit it for a moment, because
 “ it might possibly be recovered ; and, if he
 “ did, would be in perpetual danger of stum-
 “ bling upon some other wanderer, and
 “ bringing a common calamity upon both.
 “ In the maze of life we are often bewildered,
 “ and darkness and danger surround us : but
 “ every one may at least secure conscience
 “ against the power of accident, by adhering
 “ inviolably to that rule, by which we are
 “ enjoined to abstain even from the APPEAR-
 “ ANCES OF EVIL.”

Nº 69. TUESDAY, *July 3, 1753.*

Ferè libenter homines id quod volunt credunt.

CÆSAR.

Men willingly believe what they wish to be true.

TULLY has long ago observed, that no
 man, however weakened by long life,
 is so conscious of his own decrepitude, as not
 to imagine that he may yet hold his station
 in the world for another year.

Of the truth of this remark every day fur-
 nishes new confirmation : there is no time of
 life, in which men for the most part seem
 less

less to expect the stroke of death, than when every other eye sees it impending ; or are more busy in providing for another year than when it is plain to all but themselves, that at another year they cannot arrive. Though every funeral that passes before their eyes evinces the deceitfulness of such expectations, since every man who is borne to the grave thought himself equally certain of living at least to the next year ; the survivor still continues to flatter himself, and is never at a loss for some reason why his life should be protracted, and the voracity of death continue to be pacified with some other prey.

But this is only one of the innumerable artifices practised in the universal conspiracy of mankind against themselves : every age and every condition indulges some darling fallacy ; every man amuses himself with projects which he knows to be improbable, and which, therefore, he resolves to pursue without daring to examine them. Whatever any man ardently desires he very readily believes that he shall some time attain : he whose intemperance has overwhelmed him with diseases, while he languishes in the spring, expects vigour and recovery from the summer sun ; and
while

while he melts away in the summer, transfers his hopes to the frosts of winter : he that gazes upon elegance or pleasure, which want of money hinders him from imitating or partaking, comforts himself that the time of distress will soon be at an end, and that every day brings him nearer to a state of happiness though he knows it has passed not only without acquisition of advantage, but perhaps without endeavours after it, in the formation of schemes that cannot be executed, and in the contemplation of prospects, which cannot be approached.

Such is the general dream in which we all flumber out our time : every man thinks the day coming, in which he shall be gratified with all his wishes, in which he shall leave all those competitors behind, who are now rejoicing like himself in the expectation of victory ; the day is always coming to the servile in which they shall be powerful, to the obscure in which they shall be eminent, and to the deformed in which they shall be beautiful.

If any of my readers has looked with so little attention on the world about him, as to imagine this representation exaggerated beyond

yond probability, let him reflect a little upon his own life ; let him consider what were his hopes and prospects ten years ago, and what additions he then expected to be made by ten years to his happiness : those years are now elapsed ; have they made good the promise that was extorted from them, have they advanced his fortune, enlarged his knowledge, or reformed his conduct, to the degree that was once expected ? I am afraid, every man that recollects his hopes must confess his disappointment ; and own that day has glided unprofitably after day, and that he is still at the same distance from the point of happiness.

With what consolations can those, who have thus miscarried in their chief design, elude the memory of their ill success ? with what amusements can they pacify their discontent, after the loss of so large a portion of life ? they can give themselves up again to the same delusions, they can form new schemes of airy gratifications, and fix another period of felicity ; they can again resolve to trust the promise which they know will be broken, they can walk in a circle with their eyes shut, and persuade themselves to think that they go forward.

Of every great and complicated event, part depends upon causes out of our power, and part must be effected by vigour and perseverance. With regard to that which is stiled in common language the work of chance, men will always find reasons for confidence or distrust, according to their different tempers or inclinations ; and he that has been long accustomed to please himself with possibilities of fortuitous happiness, will not easily or willingly be reclaimed from his mistake. But the effects of human industry and skill are more easily subjected to calculation ; whatever can be compleated in a year, is divisible into parts, of which each may be performed in the compass of a day ; he, therefore, that has passed the day without attention to the task assigned him, may be certain that the lapse of life has brought him no nearer to his object ; for whatever idleness may expect from time, its produce will be only in proportion to the diligence with which it has been used. He that floats lazily down the stream, in pursuit of something borne along by the same current, will find himself indeed moved forward ; but unless he lays his hand to the oar, and increases his
speed

speed by his own labour, must be always at the same distance from that which he is following.

There have happened in every age some contingencies of unexpected and undeserved success, by which those who are determined to believe whatever favours their inclinations have been encouraged to delight themselves with future advantages; they support confidence by considerations, of which the only proper use is to chase away despair: it is equally absurd to sit down in idleness because some have been enriched without labour, as to leap a precipice because some have fallen and escaped with life, or to put to sea in a storm because some have been driven from a wreck upon the coast to which they are bound.

We are all ready to confess, that belief ought to be proportioned to evidence or probability: let any man, therefore, compare the number of those who have been thus favoured by fortune, and of those who have failed of their expectations, and he will easily determine with what justness he has registered himself in the lucky catalogue.

But there is no need on these occasions for deep enquiries or laborious calculations, there

is a far easier method of distinguishing the hopes of folly from those of reason, of finding difference between prospects that exist before the eyes, and those that are only painted on a fond imagination. TOM DROWSY had accustomed himself to compute the profit of a darling project, till he had no longer any doubt of its success ; it was at last matured by close consideration, all the measures were accurately adjusted, and he wanted only five hundred pounds to become master of a fortune that might be envied by a Director of a trading company. TOM was generous and grateful, and was resolved to recompense this small assistance with an ample fortune : he, therefore, deliberated for a time, to whom amongst his friends he should declare his necessities ; not that he suspected a refusal, but because he could not suddenly determine which of them would make the best use of riches, and was, therefore, most worthy of his favour. At last his choice was settled ; and knowing that in order to borrow he must shew the probability of repayment, he prepared for a minute and copious explanation of his project. But here the golden dream was at an end : he soon discovered the impossibility

possibility of imposing upon others the notions by which he had so long imposed upon himself; which way soever he turned his thoughts, impossibility and absurdity arose in opposition on every side; even credulity and prejudice were at last forced to give way, and he grew ashamed of crediting himself what shame would not suffer him to communicate to another.

To this test let every man bring his imaginations, before they have been too long predominant in his mind. Whatever is true will bear to be related, whatever is rational will endure to be explained: but when we delight to brood in secret over future happiness, and silently to employ our meditations upon schemes of which we are conscious that the bare mention would expose us to derision and contempt; we should then remember, that we are cheating ourselves by voluntary delusions; and giving up to the unreal mockeries of fancy, those hours in which solid advantages might be attained by sober thought and rational assiduity.

There is, indeed, so little certainty in human affairs, that the most cautious and

severe examiner may be allowed to indulge some hopes, which he cannot prove to be much favoured by probability; since after his utmost endeavours to ascertain events, he must often leave the issue in the hands of chance. And so scanty is our present allowance of happiness, that in many situations life could scarcely be supported, if hope were not allowed to relieve the present hour by pleasures borrowed from futurity; and re-animate the languor of detection to new efforts, by pointing to distant regions of felicity, which yet no resolution or perseverance shall ever reach.

But these, like all other cordials, though they may invigorate in a small quantity, intoxicate in a greater; these pleasures, like the rest, are lawful only in certain circumstances, and to certain degrees; they may be useful in a due subserviency to nobler purposes, but become dangerous and destructive, when once they gain the ascendant in the heart: to soothe the mind to tranquillity by hope, even when that hope is likely to deceive us, may be sometimes useful; but to lull our faculties in a lethargy, is poor and despicable.

Vices

Vices and errors are differently modified, according to the state of the minds to which they are incident ; to indulge hope beyond the warrant of reason, is the failure alike of mean and elevated understandings : but its foundation and its effects are totally different : the man of high courage and great abilities, is apt to place too much confidence in himself, and to expect from a vigorous exertion of his powers more than spirit or diligence can attain ; between him and his wish he sees obstacles indeed, but he expects to overleap or break them ; his mistaken ardour hurries him forward ; and though perhaps he misses his end, he nevertheless obtains some collateral good, and performs something useful to mankind and honourable to himself.

The drone of timidity presumes likewise to hope, but without ground and without consequence ; the bliss with which he solaces his hours, he always expects from others, though very often he knows not from whom ; he folds his arms about him, and sits in expectation of some revolution in the state that shall raise him to greatness,

or some golden shower that shall load him with wealth ; he dozes away the day in musing upon the morrow ; and at the end of life is roused from his dream only to discover that the time of action is past, and that he can now shew his wisdom only by repentance.

N^o 70. SATURDAY, July 7, 1753.

*VIRTUS, repulsæ nescia sordidæ,
Intaminatis fulget honoribus ;
Nec sumit aut ponit secures,
Arbitrio popularis auræ.*

HOR.

Stranger to folly and to fear,
With pure untainted honour bright,
Virtue disdains to lend an ear
To the mad people's sense of right.

MR. ADVENTURER,

I Am the person whom your correspondent BENEVOLUS has thought fit to mention by the name of AGRESTIS. There are some particulars in my character, which, perhaps, he has mistaken : but I love plain dealing ; and as he did not intend to flatter me, I forgive him : perhaps my heart

heart is as warm as another's, and I am no stranger to any principles that would lead a man to a handsome thing. But to the point. I approve your publishing the story of EUGENIO; and I am determined the world shall not lose the sequel of it, in which you are more concerned than perhaps you may imagine.

You must know, Sir, that I had observed my girl to go moping about of late more than common; though in truth she has been somewhat grave ever since she dismissed VENTOSUS. I was determined to keep an eye upon her; and so watching her pretty closely, I caught her last Saturday was se'nnight almost drowned in tears with your paper in her hand. I laid hold of it in an instant, and putting on my spectacles began to read, with a shrewd suspicion that I should find out a secret. Her passion of crying still increased; and when I had looked here and there in the paper, I was convinced that she was by some means deeply interested in the story, which, indeed, appeared to me to be full of misfortune. In short, I pressed her so home upon the subject, that she put the

other two papers into my hand, and telling me who were meant by the names, I began to read with great eagerness; though to confess a truth, I could scarce see the three last pages. Odds-my-life, thinks I, what an honest fellow this EUGENIO is! and leering up at my girl, I thought I never saw her look so like her mother before. I took her about the neck and kissed her: but I did not tell her what I had in my head: however, to encourage her, I bid her be a good child; and instantly ordering my coach, I went directly to BENEVOLUS, of whom I enquired the ship's name on board of which EUGENIO was embarked, and when she failed. The doctor, whether he guessed at my intention or not, looked as if he would have leaped out of his skin, and told me with a kind of wild eagerness, that the vessel having met with an accident in going out was put back, and then lay in the river near Gravesend.

With this intelligence I returned to my daughter, and told her my mind. "Emmy," says I, "the CAPTAIN was always in my opinion a worthy man; and when I had
" reason

“reason to believe you liked him, I did not
“resolve to part you because he was with-
“out a title or an estate, but because I
“could not be reconciled to his profession.
“I was determined you should never marry
“a cockade, and carry a knapsack ; and
“if he had been a general officer, I would
“have preferred an honest citizen, who
“encourages trade and navigation, before
“him. Besides, I was angry that you
“should hold a private correspondence,
“and think to carry your point without
“me : but you were greatly misrepresent-
“ed ; so was the CAPTAIN : he has gal-
“lantly removed all my objections at once,
“he is not now in the army, nor has he
“ever attempted to subvert my authority ;
“he is a true heart, and I feel that I
“love him as my son. He is still with-
“in reach, and you shall this moment write
“to him with your own hand, and tell
“him, that I say he shall be your hus-
“band. I have money enough for ye both ;
“and if I please, I can make him a lord.”
The poor child sat with her handkerchief
up to her eyes while I was speaking, and
I did not immediately perceive, that, upon
hear-

hearing the CAPTAIN was not gone, she had fainted. We could scarce keep life in her for above two hours ; but at last she a little recovered her spirits, and brought me the following billet :

TO EUGENIO.

“ S I R,

“ MY dear papa commands me to
 “ intreat, that you would immediately come
 “ on shore, and from this hour consider
 “ his house as your own. He is greatly af-
 “ fected with the story of your generosity
 “ and distress, which he has just learnt by
 “ an accident which I cannot now commu-
 “ nicate ; and he is determined to make you
 “ his heir, without prejudice to,

“ S I R,

“ Your humble servant,

“ AMELIA.”

When I had perused this epistle, “ Pshaw,” says I, “ put affectionate at the end of it, or
 “ else he won’t come now.” This made her smile. I was glad to see her look cheerful ; and having with some difficulty procured the proper addition, I dispatched the letter in-

stantly by my own servant on horseback, and ordered a light chariot and four to follow him, and take up EUGENIO's friend the doctor by the way. I will not tell you, Sir, how EUGENIO, as he is called, behaved upon the receipt of this letter; it is enough, that in about eight hours he arrived with his friend at my house; neither will I tell you how the lovers behaved when they met; it is enough that they are to be married next Thursday. I add some particulars for your private inspection in the postscript, that you may give us your company at the wedding. I dare say you will share the happiness of which you have been the instrument; and I assure you that you will be extremely welcome to the company, but to none more than to

Your's heartily,

AGRESTIS:

I am extremely obliged to AGRESTIS for his postscript, but yet more for his letter; which, if I may be allowed to judge by its effect, is the most eloquent performance I ever read: its excellence, I am persuaded, will be universally acknowledged, because
it

it will be felt. I shall, however, add some remarks, which, perhaps, may not occur to every mind, as every mind has not acquired a habit of speculation.

EUGENIO's heroic perseverance in virtue, though it appeared to preclude all his hopes of temporal advantage, yet eventually fulfilled them. If he had with less generosity engaged in a clandestine love, either he would have forfeited the esteem of AMELIA, or she would have incurred the resentment of her father ; if he had succeeded to the remains of his paternal estate, he might still have been suspected by AGRESTIS ; and if, he had continued in the army, however preferred, he would still have been disappointed.

Thus, perhaps, if remote consequences could be discovered by human foresight, we should see the wisdom and the kindness of DIVINE PRESCRIPTION ; we should see that the precepts which we are now urged to neglect by our desire of happiness, were given to prevent our being precipitated by error into misery ; at least, it would appear, that if some immediate advantage is gained by the individual, an equivalent loss is sustained by society ;

society; and as society is only an aggregation of individuals, he who seeks his own advantage at the expence of society, cannot long be exempted from the general calamity which he contributes to produce.

Such is the necessary imperfection of human laws, that many private injuries are perpetrated of which they take no cognizance : but if these were allowed to be punished by the individual against whom they are committed, every man would be judge and executioner in his own cause, and universal anarchy would immediately follow. The laws, therefore, by which this practice is prohibited, ought to be held more sacred than any other : and the violation of them is so far from being necessary to prevent an imputation of cowardice, that they are enforced even among those in whom cowardice is punished with death, by the following clause in the nineteenth ARTICLE OF WAR :

“ Nor shall any officer or soldier upbraid
 “ another for REFUSING a CHALLENGE ;
 “ since, according to these our orders, they
 “ do but the DUTY of SOLDIERS, who ought
 “ to subject themselves to discipline : and we
 “ do acquit and discharge all men who have
 “ quarrels

“ quarrels offered, or challenges sent to them,
 “ of all disgrace or opinion of disadvantage in
 “ their obedience hereunto : and whoever shall
 “ upbraid them, or offend in this case, shall
 “ be punished as a CHALLENGER.”

It is to be presumed, that of this clause no gentleman in the army is ignorant ; and those who by the arrogance of their folly labour to render it ineffectual, should, as enemies to their COUNTRY, be driven out of it with detestation and contempt.

N^o 71. TUESDAY, July 10, 1753.

— *Hominem pagina nostra sapit.* MART.

We strive to paint the manners and the mind.

LETTERS written from the heart and on real occasions, though not always decorated with the flowers of eloquence, must be far more useful and interesting than the studied paragraphs of PLINY, or the pompous declamations of BALSAC ; as they contain just pictures of life and manners, and are the genuine emanations of nature. Of this kind I shall select a few from the heap I have received from my correspondents, each of which

which exhibits a different character, not exaggerated and heightened by circumstances that pass the bounds of reality.

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

Sombre-Hall, June 18.

I AM arrived with Sir Nicholas at this melancholy moated mansion. Would I could be annihilated during the insupportable tediousness of summer! We are to sup this evening, after having fished the whole afternoon, by daylight, think of that, in the new harbour. My uncle, poor man, imagines he has a finer and richer prospect from thence, than the illuminated vistas at Vauxhall afford, only because he sees a parcel of woods and meadows, and blue hills, and corn-fields. We have been visited by our only neighbour, Mrs. Thrifty, who entertained us with a dull history of the children she has educated at a little school of her own founding, and who values herself for not having been in town these ten years, and for not knowing what a drum means. My sister and I have laid a scheme to plague her, for we have sent her a card, entreating her to make one at Brag next Sunday. For heaven's sake send us your paper weekly,

weekly, but do not give us so many grave ones; for we want to be diverted after studying Hoyle, which we do for three hours every afternoon with great attention, that the time may not pass away totally useless, and that we may be a match for Lady SHUFFLE next winter. Let us know what is done at the next Jubilee Masquerade. How shall I have patience to support my absence from it! And if Madam de Pompadour comes over, as was reported when I left town, impart to us a minute account of the complexion she now wears, and of every article of her dress; any milliner will explain the terms to you. I don't see that you have yet published the little novel I sent you; I assure you it was written by a right honourable; but you I suppose, think the style colloquial as you call it, and the moral trite or trifling. Colonel Caper's pindaric ode on the E O table, must absolutely be inserted in your very next paper, or else never expect to hear again from

LETITIA.

To

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

I APPLY to you, as a person of prudence and knowledge of the world, for directions how to extricate myself out of a great and uncommon difficulty. To enable myself to breed up a numerous family on a small preferment, I have been advised to indulge my natural propensity for poetry, and to write a tragedy: my design is to apprentice my eldest son to a reputable tradesman, with the profits I shall acquire by the representation of my play, being deterred by the inordinate expences of an University education from making him a scholar. An old gentlewoman in my parish, a great reader of religious controversy, whom celibacy and the reduction of interest have made morosely devout, accidentally hearing of my performance, undertook to censure me in all companies with acrimony and zeal, as acting inconsistently with the dignity of my public character, and as a promoter of debauchery and lewdness. She has informed my church-wardens, that the playhouse is the temple of Satan, and that

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the

the first Christians were strictly forbidden to enter the theatres, as places impure and contagious. My congregations grow thin; my clerk shakes his head, and fears his master is not so sound as he ought to be. I was lately discoursing on the beautiful parable of the prodigal son, and most unfortunately quoted ERASMUS's observation on it, "ex quo quidem argumento posset non inelegans texti comedia,—on which subject a most elegant comedy might be composed;" which has ruined me for ever, and destroyed all the little respect remaining for me in the minds of my parishioners. What! cried they, would the parson put the Bible into verse? would he make stage-plays out of the Scriptures? How, Sir, am I to act? Assist me with your advice. Am I for ever to bear unreasonable obloquy, and undeserved reproach? or must I to regain the good opinion of my people, relinquish all hopes of the five hundred pounds I was to gain by my piece, and generously burn my tragedy in my church-yard, in the face of my whole congregation?

Your's, &c.

JACOB THOMASON.

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

I HAD almost finished a view of the inside of St. Peter's at Rome in BUTTERFLY-WORK, when my cruel parroquet accidentally trod upon the PURPLE EMPEROR, of which the high altar was to have been made. This is the first letter I have written after my dreadful loss; and it is to desire you to put an advertisement at the end of your next paper, signifying, that whoever has any "purple emperors or swallow tails" to dispose of, may hear of a purchaser at Lady WHIM's in New Bond street.

Your's, &c.

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

IF you will pay off my milk-score and lodgings, stop my taylor from arresting me, and put twenty pieces in my pocket, I will immediately set out for Lyons on foot, and stay there till I have translated into English the manuscript of LONGINUS which you talk of in your fifty-first paper. Favour

Q²

me

me with a speedy answer, directed to Mr. *Quillet*, at the cork-cutter's in Wych-street, Drury-lane.

P. S. Seven booksellers have already applied to me, and offer to pay me very generously for my translation, especially as there is no French one for me to consult.

TO the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

YOU affect great tenderness and sensibility whenever you speak of the ladies. I have always despised them as trifling and expensive animals; and have, therefore, enjoyed the delicious liberty of what they idly and opprobriously call an old bachelor. I consider love in no other light, than as the parent of misery and folly, and the son of idleness and ease. I am, therefore, inexpressibly delighted with a passage of uncommon sense and penetration, which I lately met with in the works of the celebrated HUET; and which, because no English writer has taken notice of it, I beg you would publish for the use of my countrymen, as it will impart to them a method of escaping

ping the despicable lot of living under female tyranny.

“Love,” says this judicious prelate, “is
 “not only a passion of the soul like hatred and
 “envy, but is also a malady of the body like
 “a fever. It is situated in the blood and the
 “animal spirits, which are extraordinarily in-
 “flamed and agitated ; and it ought to be
 “treated methodically by the rules of medi-
 “cine, in order to effect a cure. I am of
 “opinion, that this disorder may easily be
 “subdued by plentiful sweats and copious
 “bleedings, which would carry off the pec-
 “cant humours and these violent inflamma-
 “tions, would purge the blood, calm its emo-
 “tion, and re-establish it in its former natu-
 “ral state. This is not merely groundless
 “conjecture, it is an opinion founded on ex-
 “perience. A great prince, with whom
 “I was intimately acquainted, having con-
 “ceived a violent passion for a young lady of
 “exalted merit, was obliged to leave her,
 “and to take the field with the army. Du-
 “ring this absence, his love was cherished
 “and kept alive by a very frequent and re-
 “gular intercourse of letters to the end of
 “the campaign, when a dangerous sickness

“ reduced him to extremity. By applying to
“ the most powerful and efficacious drugs
“ phyfic could boast of, he recovered his
“ health, but lost his passion, which the
“ great evacuations he had used had entirely
“ carried off unknown to him. For imagi-
“ ning that he was as much in love as ever,
“ he found himself unexpectedly cold and
“ indifferent, the first time he beheld again
“ the lady of whom he had been so passion-
“ ately fond. The like accident befel one of
“ my most intimate friends, who recovering
“ from a long and stubborn fever by falling
“ into copious sweats, perceived at the same
“ time that he was cured of a passion, that
“ for some time before had continually tei-
“ zed and grievously tormented him. He
“ had no longer any taste for the object he
“ formerly adored, attempted in vain to re-
“ new his gallantries, and found that in-
“ sensibility and dislike had banished tender-
“ nefs and respect.”

I am your's,

AKALOS.

To

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

IN one of your late sermons I am informed, for I never read myself, that you have presumed to speak with ridicule and contempt of the noble order of BUCKS. Seven of us agreed last night at the King's Arms, that if you dared to be guilty of the like impudence a second time, we would come in a body and untile your garret, burn your pocket-book of hints, throw your papers ready written for the press into a jakes, and drive you out into the Strand in your tattered night-gown and slippers : and you may guess what a fine spectacle the mob will think an animal that so seldom sees the sun as you do. I assure you, that next to a day at Broughton's, or the damnation of a new play, the truest joy of our fraternity is, "to hunt an author."

Your's,

Z

BOB WHIPCLEAN.

Q4

No

N^o 72. SATURDAY, *July* 14, 1753.

Πολλα μετὰ ξυ πελει καλυκος καὶ χειλεος ἀκρον.

PROV. GR.

Many things happen between the cup and the lip.

THE following narrative is by an eastern tradition attributed to one HELI BEN HAMET, a moralist of Arabia, who is said to have delivered his precepts in public and periodical orations. This tradition corresponds with the manner in which the narrative is introduced ; and, indeed, it may possibly have no other foundation : but the tradition itself, however founded, is sufficient authority to consider HELI as the literary ADVENTURER of a remote age and nation ; and as only one number of his work is extant, I shall not scruple to incorporate it with my own,

Dost thou ask a torch to discover the brightness of the morning ? dost thou appeal to argument for proofs of DIVINE PERFECTION ? Look down to the earth on which thou standest, and lift up thine eye to the worlds that roll above thee. Thou behold-
est

est splendor, abundance, and beauty ; is not HE who produced them MIGHTY ? Thou confidest ; is not HE who formed thy understanding, WISE ? Thou enjoyest ; is not HE who gratifies thy senses, GOOD ? Can aught have limited his bounty but his wisdom ? or can defects in his sagacity be discovered by thine ? To HELI, the preacher of humility and resignation, let thine ear be again attentive, thou whose heart has rebelled in secret, and whose wish has silently accused thy MAKER.

I rose early in the morning to meditate, that I might without presumption hope to be heard. I left my habitation, and, turning from the beaten path, I wandered without remarking my way, or regarding any object that I passed, till the extreme heat of the sun, which now approached the meridian, compelled my attention. The weariness which I had insensibly contracted by the length of my walk, became in a moment insupportable ; and looking round for shelter, I suddenly perceived that I was not far from the wood, in which RHEDI the hermit investigates the secrets of nature, and ascribes glory to GOD. The hope of improving my meditation by
his

his wisdom, gave me new vigour; I soon reached the wood, I was refreshed by the shade, and I walked forward till I reached the cell. I entered, but RHEDI was absent. I had not, however, waited long, before I discovered him through the trees at some distance, advancing towards me with a person whose appearance was, if possible, yet more venerable, and whom before I had never seen.

When they came near I rose up, and laying my hand upon my lips, I bowed myself with reverence before them. RHEDI saluted me by my name, and presented me to his companion, before whom I again bowed myself to the ground. Having looked stedfastly in my countenance, he laid his hand upon my head, and blessed me: "HELI," said he, "those who desire KNOWLEDGE that they may teach VIRTUE, shall not be disappointed: sit down, I will relate events which yet thou knowest but in part, and disclose secrets of PROVIDENCE from which thou mayest derive instruction." We sat down, and I listened as to the counsel of an Angel, or the music of Paradise.

AMANA, the daughter of SANBAD the shepherd, was drawing water at the wells of Adail, when a caravan which had passed the desert arrived, and the driver of the camels alighted to give them drink: those which came first to the wells, belonged to NOURADDIN, the merchant, who had brought fine linen and other merchandize of great value from Egypt. AMANA, when the caravan drew near, had covered herself with her veil, which the servant of NOURADDIN, to gratify a brutal curiosity, attempted to withdraw:

AMANA, provoked by the indignity, and encouraged by the presence of others, struck him with the staff of the bucket; and he was about to retaliate the violence, when NOURADDIN, who was himself with the caravan, called out to him to forbear, and immediately hastened to the well. The veil of AMANA had fallen off in the struggle, and NOURADDIN was captivated with her beauty; the lovely confusion of offended modesty that glowed upon her cheek, the disdain that swelled her bosom, and the resentment that sparkled in her eyes, expressed a consciousness of her sex, which warmed and
animated

animated her beauty : they were graces which NOURADDIN had never seen, and produced a tumult in his breast which he had never felt ; for NOURADDIN, though he had now great possessions, was yet a youth, and a stranger to woman : the merchandize which he was transporting, had been purchased by his father, whom the Angel of death had intercepted in the journey, and the sudden accession of independence and wealth did not dispose him to restrain the impetuosity of desire : he, therefore, demanded AMANA of her parents : his message was received with gratitude and joy ; and NOURADDIN, after a short time, carried her back to Egypt, having first punished the servant, by whom she had been insulted at the well, with his own hand.

But he delayed the solemnities of marriage, till the time of mourning for his father should expire ; and the gratification of a passion which he could not suppress, was without much difficulty suspended now its object was in his power. He anticipated the happiness which he believed to be secured ; and supposed that it would increase by expectation,

like

like a treasure by usury, of which more is still possessed, as possession is longer delayed.

During this interval AMANA recovered from the tumultuous joy of sudden elevation ; her ambition was at an end, and she became susceptible of love. NOURADDIN, who regretted the obscurity of her birth only because it had prevented the cultivation of her mind, laboured incessantly to supply the defect : she received his instruction not only with gratitude, but delight ; while he spoke she gazed upon him with esteem and reverence, and had no wish but to return the happiness which he was impatient to bestow.

At this time OSMIN the Caliph was upon the throne of Egypt. The passions of OSMIN, thou knowest, were impetuous as the torrents of Alared, and fatal as the whirlwind of the desert : to excite and to gratify, was the whole purpose of his mind ; but his wish was still unsatisfied, and his life was wretched. His seraglio was filled with beauty ; but the power of beauty he had exhausted : he became outrageous to revive desire by a new object, which he demanded of Nardic the eunuch, whom he had not only set over
his

his women but his kingdom, with menaces and execration. Nardic, therefore, caused a proclamation to be made, that whoever should produce the most beautiful virgin within two days, should stand in the presence of the CALIPH, and be deemed the third in his kingdom.

CALED, the servant who had been beaten by NOURADDIN, returned with him to Egypt : the sullen ferocity of his temper was increased by the desire of revenge, and the gloom of discontent was deepened by despair : but when he heard the proclamation of Nardic, joy kindled in his aspect like lightning in the darkness of a storm ; the offence which he had committed against AMANA, enabled him to revenge the punishment which it produced. He knew that she was yet a virgin, and that her marriage was near : he, therefore, hastened to the palace, and demanded to be brought before Nardic, who in the midst of magnificence and servility, the flattery of dependent ambition and the zeal of unlimited obedience, was sitting pale and silent, his brow contracted with anxiety, and his breast throbbing with apprehension.

When CALED was brought into his presence,

fence, he fell prostrate before him : “ By
 “ the smile of my Lord,” said he, “ let ano-
 “ ther be distinguished from the slaves who
 “ mingle in obscurity, and let his favour ele-
 “ vate another from the dust ; but let my
 “ service be accepted, and let the desire of
 “ OSMIN be satisfied with beauty. AMANA
 “ will shortly be espoused by NOURADDIN ;
 “ but of AMANA the sovereign of Egypt
 “ only is worthy. Haste, therefore, to de-
 “ mand her ; she is now with him in the
 “ house, to which I will conduct the mes-
 “ senger of thy will.”

Nardic received this intelligence with transports of joy ; a mandate was instantly written to NOURADDIN ; it was sealed with the royal signet and delivered to Caled, who returned with a force sufficient to compel obedience.

On this day the mourning of NOURADDIN expired ; he had changed his apparel, and perfumed his person ; his features were brightened with the gladness of his heart ; he had invited his friends to the festival of his marriage, and the evening was to accomplish his wishes : the evening also was expected by AMANA, with a joy which she did

did not labour to suppress ; and she was hiding her blushes in the breast of NOURADDIN, when Caled arrived with the mandate and the guard.

The domestics were alarmed and terrified ; and NOURADDIN, being instantly acquainted with the event, rushed out of the apartment of AMANA with disorder and trepidation. When he saw Caled, he was moved with anger and disdain ; but he was intimidated by the appearance of the guard. Caled immediately advanced, and, with looks of insolence and triumph, presented the mandate : NOURADDIN seeing the royal signet, kneeled to receive it ; and having gazed a moment at the superscription, pressed it upon his forehead in an agony of suspense and terror. The wretch who had betrayed him enjoyed the anguish which he suffered ; and perceiving that he was fainting, and had not fortitude to read the paper, acquainted him with the contents : at the name of AMANA he started, as if he had felt the sting of a scorpion, and immediately fell to the ground.

Caled proceeded to execute his commission without remorse ; he was not to be moved
by

by swooning, expostulation, entreaty, or tears ; but having conducted AMANA to the seraglio, presented her to Nardic, with exultation and hope. Nardic, whose wish was flattered by her stature and her shape, lifted up her veil with impatience, timidity, and solicitude : but the moment he beheld her face, his doubts were at an end : he prostrated himself before her, as a person on whose pleasure his life would from that moment depend. She was conducted to the chamber of the women, and Caled was the same hour invested with his new dignity ; an apartment was assigned him in the palace, and he was made captain of the guard that kept the gates.

NOURADDIN, when he recovered his sensibility, and found that AMANA had been conducted to the seraglio, was seized by turns with distraction and stupidity : he passed the night in agitations, by which the powers of nature were exhausted and in the morning he locked himself into the chamber of AMANA, and threw himself on a sofa, determined to admit no comforter, and to receive no sustenance.

N^o 73. TUESDAY, *July 17, 1753.*

—*Numinibus vota exaudita malignis.*

JUV.

Prayers made and granted in a luckle *fs* hour.

DRYDEN.

WHILE NOURADDIN was thus abandoned to despair, Nardic's description of AMANA had roused OZMIN from his apathy. He commanded that she should be prepared to receive him, and soon after went alone into her apartment. Familiar as he was with beauty, and satiated with enjoyment, he could not behold AMANA without emotion: he perceived, indeed, that she was in tears, and that his presence covered her with confusion; yet he believed that her terrors would be easily removed, that by kindness she might be soothed to familiarity, and by caresses excited to dalliance; but the moment he approached her, she threw herself at his feet, and entreated to be heard, with an importunity which he chose rather to indulge than resist: he, therefore, raised her from the ground, and supporting her in his arms, encouraged her to proceed, "Let
" my

“ my Lord,” said she, “ dismiss a wretch
 “ who is not worthy of his presence, and
 “ compassionate the distress which is not
 “ susceptible of delight. I am the daughter
 “ of a shepherd, betrothed to the merchant
 “ NOURADDIN, from whom my body has
 “ been forced by the perfidy of a slave, and
 “ to whom my soul is united by indissoluble
 “ bonds. O ! let not the terrors of thy
 “ frown be upon me ! Shall the sovereign of
 “ Egypt stoop to a reptile of the dust ? shall
 “ the judge of nations retain the worthless
 “ theft of treachery and revenge ? or shall he
 “ for whom ten thousand languish with de-
 “ fire, rejoice in the sufferance of one aliena-
 “ ted mind ?” OSMIN, whose breast had by
 turns been inflamed with desire and indigna-
 tion, while he gazed upon the beauties of
 AMANA and listened to her voice, now sud-
 denly threw her from him, and departed
 without reply.

When he was alone, he remained a few
 moments in suspense : but the passions which
 eloquence had repressed, soon became again
 predominant ; and he commanded AMANA
 to be told, that if within three hours she did
 not come prepared to gratify his wishes, he

would cast the head of the slave for whom he was rejected at her feet.

The eunuch by whom this message was delivered, and the woman who had returned to AMANA when the Caliph retired, were touched with pity at her distress, and trembled at her danger: the evils which they could scarce hope to prevent, they were yet solicitous to delay; and, therefore, advised her to request three days of preparation, that she might sufficiently recover the tranquillity of her mind, to make a just estimate of her own happiness; and with this request to send, as a pledge of her obedience, a bowl of sherbet, in which a pearl had been dissolved, and of which she had first drank herself.

To this advice, after some throbs of desperation, she at length consented, and prepared to put it in execution.

At the time when this resolution was taken, NOURADDIN suddenly started from a restless slumber; he was again stung by an instantaneous reflection upon his own misery, and indulged the discontent of his mind in this exclamation: "if wisdom and goodness do indeed preside over the works of

“ OMNI-

“ OMNIPOTENCE, whence is oppression,
 “ injustice, and cruelty ? As NOURADDIN
 “ alone has a right to AMANA, why is AMA-
 “ NA in the power of OSMIN ? O that now
 “ the justice of HEAVEN would appear in
 “ my behalf ! O that from this hour I was
 “ OSMIN, and OSMIN NOURADDIN !” The
 moment he had uttered this wish, his cham-
 ber was darkened as with a thick cloud,
 which was at length dissipated by a burst of
 thunder ; and a being, whose appearance
 was more than human, stood before him.
 “ NOURADDIN,” said the vision, “ I am
 “ of the region above thee ; but my business
 “ is with the children of the earth. Thou
 “ hast wished to be OSMIN, and as far as
 “ this wish is possible it shall be accom-
 “ plished ; thou shalt be enabled to assume
 “ his appearance, and to exercise his power:
 “ I know not yet whether I am permitted to
 “ conceal OSMIN under the appearance of
 “ NOURADDIN, but till to-morrow he shall
 “ not interrupt thee.”

NOURADDIN, who had been held motion-
 less by astonishment and terror, now re-
 covered his fortitude as in the presence of a
 friend ; and was about to express his grati-
 tude

tude and joy, when the GENIUS bound a talisman on his left arm, and acquainted him with its power : “ As often as this bracelet,” said he, “ shall be applied to the region of thy heart, thou shalt be alternately changed “ in appearance from NOURADDIN to OSMIN, and from OSMIN to NOURADDIN.” The Genius then suddenly disappeared, and NOURADDIN, impatient to recover the possession of AMANA, instantly applied the stud of the bracelet to his breast, and the next moment found himself alone in an apartment of the seraglio.

During this interval, the CALIPH, who was expecting the issue of his message to AMANA, became restless and impatient : he quitted his apartment, and went into the gardens, where he walked backward and forward with a violent but interrupted pace ; and at length stood still, frowning and pensive, with his eyes fixed on the clear surface of a fountain in the middle of the walk. The agitation of his mind continued, and at length broke out into this soliloquy : “ What is “ my felicity, and what is my power ? I am “ wretched, by the want of that which the “ caprice of women has bestowed upon my
slave,

“ slave, I can gratify revenge, but not de-
 “ fire ; I can with-hold felicity from him,
 “ but I cannot procure it to myself. Why
 “ have I not power to assume the form in
 “ which I might enjoy my wishes ? I will
 “ at least enjoy them in thought. If I was
 “ NOURADDIN, I should be clasped with
 “ transport to the bosom of AMANA.” He
 then resigned himself to the power of imagi-
 nation, and was again silent ; but the mo-
 ment his wish was uttered, he became sub-
 ject to the GENIUS who had just transported
 NOURADDIN to his palace. This wish,
 therefore, was instantly fulfilled : and his
 eyes being still fixed upon the water, he per-
 ceived, with sudden wonder and delight,
 that his figure had been changed in a mo-
 ment, and that the mirror reflected another
 image. His fancy had been warmed with
 the ideal caresses of AMANA ; the tumult
 of his mind was increased by the prodigy ;
 and the gratification of his appetite being
 the only object of his attention, he hastened
 instantly to the palace, without reflecting
 that, as he would not be known, he would
 be refused admittance. At the door, to
 which he advanced with eagerness and pre-

cipitation, he was stopped by a party of the guard that was now commanded by Caled : a tumult ensued, and Caled being hastily called, believed that NOURADDIN, in the phrenzy of desperation, had scaled the walls of the garden to recover AMANA ; and rejoicing in an opportunity of revenge that exceeded his hope, instantly stabbed him with his poniard, but at the same time received that of the Caliph in his heart. Thus fell at once the tyrant and the traitor ; the tyrant by the hand which had been armed to support him in oppression, and the traitor by the fury of the appetite which his perfidy had excited.

In the mean time the man who was believed to be slain, reposed in security upon a sofa ; and AMANA, by the direction of her women, had prepared the message and the bowl. They were now dispatched to the Caliph, and received by NOURADDIN. He understood by the message that AMANA was yet inviolate ; in the joy of his heart, therefore, he took the bowl, which having emptied, he returned by the eunuch, and commanded that AMANA should be brought into his presence.

In obedience to his command, she was conducted by her women to the door, but she entered alone pale and trembling ; and though her lips were forced into a smile, the characters which grief, dread and aversion, had written in her countenance, were not effaced. NOURADDIN, who beheld her disorder, exulted in the fidelity of her love, and springing forward, threw his arms about her in an extasy of tenderness and joy ; which was still heightened when he perceived that in the character of OSMIN those embraces were suffered with reluctance, which in his own were returned with ardor : he, therefore, retreating backward a few paces, applied the talisman again to his breast, and having recovered his own form, would have rushed again into her arms ; but she started from him in confusion and terror. He smiled at the effect of the prodigy ; and sustaining her on his bosom, repeated some tender incidents which were known to no other ; told her by what means he had intercepted her message ; and urged her immediately to escape, that they might possess all their desires in each other, and leave the incumbrance of royalty to the wretch whose likeness he had
been

been enabled to assume, and was now impatient to renounce. AMANA gazed at him with a fixed attention, till her suspicion and doubts were removed ; then suddenly turned from him, tore her garment, and looking up to heaven, imprecated curses upon her head, till her voice faltered, and she burst into tears.

Of this agony, which NOURADDIN beheld with unutterable distress, the broken exclamations of AMANA at length acquainted him with the cause. " In the bowl," said she, " which thou hast intercepted, there " was death, I wished, when I took it " from my lips, that the draught which remained might be poison : a powder was " immediately shaken into it by an invisible " hand, and a voice whispered me that him " who drank the potion it would inevitably " destroy."

NOURADDIN, to whose heart the fatal malignity had now spread, perceived that his dissolution would be sudden : his legs already trembled, and his eyes became dim, he stretched out his arms towards AMANA, and his countenance was distorted by an ineffectual effort to speak ; impenetrable darkness

ness came upon him, he groaned and fell backwards. In his fall the talisman again smote his breast; his form was again changed, and the horrors of death were impressed upon the features of OSMIN. AMANA, who ran to support him, when she perceived the last transformation, rushed out of the apartment with the wild impetuosity of distraction and despair. The seraglio was alarmed in a moment: the body, which was mistaken for that of OSMIN, was examined by the physicians; the effects of poison were evident; AMANA was immediately suspected; and by the command of SHOMAR, who succeeded his father, she was put to death.

“Such,” said the companion of RHEDI, “was the end of NOURADDIN and AMANA, of OSMIN and CALED, from whose destiny I have withdrawn the veil: let the world consider it, and be wise. Be thou still the messenger of instruction, and let increase of knowledge cloath thee with humility.”

While mine eye was fixed upon the hoary sage, who had thus vouchsafed me counsel and knowledge, his countenance became bright as the morning, and his robe fleecy like a cloud;

cloud ; he rose like a vapour from the ground, and the next moment I saw him no more.

I then turned towards RHEDI the hermit, chilled with reverence, and dumb with astonishment : but in the countenance of RHEDI was the calm cheerfulness of superior virtue ; and I perceived that the sanctity of his life had acquainted him with divine intelligence. "HAMET," said he, "the voice which thou hast heard, is the voice of ZACHIS the genius ; by whose power the wonders which he has related were produced. It is the province of ZACHIS to punish impatience and presumption, by fulfilling the desires of those who wish to interrupt the order of nature, and presume to direct the hand of PROVIDENCE. Relate what thou hast heard, to preserve others from his power."

Now, therefore, let VIRTUE suffer adversity with patience, and VICE dread to incur the misery she would inflict, for by him who repines at the scale of HEAVEN, his own portion of good is diminished ; and he who presumptuously assumes the sword, will turn the point upon his own bosom.

N^o 74. SATURDAY, July 21, 1753.*Infanientis dum sapientiæ.**Consultus, erro.*

HOR.

I mist my end, and lost my way,
By crack-brain'd wisdom led astray.

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

IT has long been charged by one part of mankind upon the other, that they will not take advice ; that counsel and instruction are generally thrown away ; and that, in defiance both of admonition and example, all claim the right to chuse their own measures, and to regulate their own lives.

That there is something in advice very useful and salutary, seems to be equally confessed on all hands : since even those that reject it, allow for the most part that rejection to be wrong, but charge the fault upon the unskilful manner in which it is given ; they admit the efficacy of the medicine, but abhor the nauseousness of the vehicle.

Thus

Thus mankind have gone on from century to century : some have been advising others how to act, and some have been teaching the advisers how to advise ; yet very little alteration has been made in the world. As we must all by the law of nature enter life in ignorance, we must all make our way through it by the light of our own experience ; and, for any security that advice has been yet able to afford, must endeavour after success at the hazard of miscarriage, and learn to do right by venturing to do wrong.

By advice I would not be understood to mean, the everlasting and invariable principles of moral and religious truth, from which no change of external circumstances can justify any deviation ; but such directions as respect merely the prudential part of conduct, and which may be followed or neglected without any violation of essential duties.

It is, indeed, not so frequently to make us good as to make us wise, that our friends employ the officiousness of counsel ; and among the rejectors of advice, who are mentioned by the grave and sententious with so much acrimony, you will not so often find

find the vicious and abandoned, as the pert and the petulant, the vivacious and the giddy.

As the great end of female education is to get a husband, this likewise is the general subject of female advice; and the dreadful denunciation against those volatile girls, who will not listen patiently to the lectures of wrinkled wisdom, is, that they will die unmarried, or throw themselves away upon some worthless fellow, who will never be able to keep them a coach.

I being naturally of a ductile and easy temper, without strong desires or quick resentments, was always a favourite amongst the elderly ladies, because I never rebelled against seniority, nor could be charged with thinking myself wise before my time: but heard every opinion with submissive silence, professed myself ready to learn from all who seemed inclined to teach me, paid the same grateful acknowledgments for precepts contradictory to each other, and if any controversy arose, was careful to side with her who presided in the company.

Of this compliance I very early found the advantage; for my aunt MATILDA left

me a very large addition to my fortune, for this reason chiefly, as she herself declared, because I was not above hearing good counsel, but would sit from morning till night to be instructed, while my sister SUKEY, who was a year younger than myself, and was, therefore, in greater want of information, was so much conceited of her own knowledge, that whenever the good lady in the ardour of benevolence reproved or instructed her, she would pout or titter, interrupt her with questions, or embarrass her with objections.

I had no design to supplant my sister by this complaisant attention ; nor, when the consequence of my obsequiousness came to be known, did SUKEY so much envy as despise me : I was, however, very well pleased with my success ; and having received, from the concurrent opinion of all mankind, a notion, that to be rich was to be great and happy, I thought I had obtained my advantages at an easy rate, and resolved to continue the same passive attention, since I found myself so powerfully recommended by it to kindness and esteem.

The

The desire of advising has a very extensive prevalence ; and since advice cannot be given but to those that will hear it, a patient listener, is necessary to the accommodation of all those who desire to be confirmed in the opinion of their own wisdom : a patient listener, however, is not always to be had ; the present age, whatever age is present, is so vitiated and disordered, that young people are readier to talk than to attend, and good counsel is only thrown away upon those who are full of their own perfections.

I was, therefore, in this scarcity of good sense, a general favourite ; and seldom saw a day in which some sober matron did not invite me to her house, or take me out in her chariot, for the sake of instructing me how to keep my character in this censorious age, how to conduct myself in the time of courtship, how to stipulate for a settlement, how to manage a husband of every character, regulate my family, and educate my children.

We are all naturally credulous in our own favour. Having been so often caressed and applauded for my docility, I was willing to

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believe

believe myself really enlightened by instruction, and completely qualified for the task of life. I did not doubt but I was entering the world with a mind furnished against all exigencies, with expedients to extricate myself from every difficulty, and sagacity to provide against every danger; I was, therefore, in haste to give some specimen of my prudence, and to shew that this liberality of instruction had not been idly lavished upon a mind incapable of improvement.

My purpose, for why should I deny it? was like that of other women, to obtain a husband of rank and fortune superior to my own; and in this I had the concurrence of all those that had assumed the province of directing me. That the woman was undone who married below herself, was universally agreed: and though some ventured to assert, that the richer man ought invariably to be preferred, and that money was a sufficient compensation for a defective ancestry; yet the majority declared warmly for a gentleman, and were of opinion that upstarts should not be encouraged.

With

With regard to other qualifications I had an irreconcilable variety of instructions. I was sometimes told, that deformity was no defect in a man ; and that he who was not encouraged to intrigue by an opinion of his person, was more likely to value the tenderness of his wife : but a grave widow directed me to chuse a man who might imagine himself agreeable to me, for that the deformed were always insupportably vigilant, and apt to sink into fullness, or burst into rage, if they found their wife's eye wandering for a moment to a good face or a handsome shape.

They were, however, all unanimous in warning me, with repeated cautions, against all thoughts of union with a wit, as a being with whom no happiness could possibly be enjoyed : men of every other kind I was taught to govern, but a wit was an animal for whom no arts of taming had been yet discovered : the woman whom he could once get within his power, was considered as lost to all hope of dominion or of quiet : for he would detect artifice and defeat allurements ; and if once he discovered any failure of conduct, would believe his

own eyes, in defiance of tears, caresses and protestations.

In pursuance of these sage principles, I proceeded to form my schemes ; and while I was yet in the first bloom of youth, was taken out at an assembly by Mr. FRISK. I am afraid my cheeks glowed, and my eyes sparkled ; for I observed the looks of all my superintendents fixed anxiously upon me ; and I was next day cautioned against him from all hands, as a man of the most dangerous and formidable kind, who had written verses to one lady, and then forsaken her only because she could not read them, and had lampooned another for no other fault than defaming his sister.

Having been hitherto accustomed to obey, I ventured to dismiss Mr. FRISK, who happily did not think me worth the labour of a lampoon, I was then addressed by Mr. STURDY, and congratulated by all my friends on the manors of which I was shortly to be lady : but STURDY's conversation was so gross, that after the third visit I could endure him no longer ; and incurred, by dismissing him, the censure of all my friends, who declared that my nicety was greater than my prudence,

prudence, and that they feared it would be my fate at last to be wretched with a wit.

By a wit, however, I was never afterwards attacked, but lovers of every other class, or pretended lovers, I have often had; and notwithstanding the advice constantly given me, to have no regard in my choice to my own inclinations, I could not forbear to discard some for vice, and some for rudeness. I was once loudly censured for refusing an old gentleman who offered an enormous jointure, and died of the phthisic a year after; and was so baited with incessant importunities, that I should have given my hand to DRONE the stock-jobber, had not the reduction of interest made him afraid of the expences of matrimony.

Some, indeed, I was permitted to encourage; but miscarried of the main end, by treating them according to the rules of art which had been prescribed me. ALTILIS, an old maid, infused into me so much haughtiness and reserve, that some of my lovers withdrew themselves from my frown, and returned no more; others were driven away by the demands of settlement which the widow TRAPLAND directed me to make; and

I have learned, by many experiments, that
to ask advice is to lose opportunity.

I am, SIR,

Your humble servant,

PERDITA.

N^o 75. TUESDAY, July 24, 1753.

— *Quid virtus & quid sapientia possit,
Utile proposuit nobis exemplar Ulyssæ.* HOR.

To shew what pious wisdom's pow'r can do,
The poet sets Ulysses in our view,

FRANCIS.

I HAVE frequently wondered at the common practice of our instructors of youth, in making their pupils far more intimately acquainted with the ILIAD than with the ODYSSEY of HOMER. This absurd custom, which seems to arise from the supposed superiority of the former poem, has inclined me to make some reflections on the excellence of the latter; a task I am the more readily induced to undertake, as so little is performed in the dissertation prefixed by Broome to POPE's translation of this work, which

one

one may venture to pronounce is confused, defective, and dull. Those who receive all their opinions in criticism from custom and authority, and never dare to consult the decisions of reason and the voice of nature and truth, must not accuse me of being affectingly paradoxical, if I endeavour to maintain that the ODYSSEY excels the ILIAD in many respects; and that for several reasons young scholars should peruse it early and attentively.

The moral of this poem is more extensively useful than that of the ILIAD; which, indeed by displaying the dire effects of discord among rulers, may rectify the conduct of princes, and may be called the MANUAL OF MONARCHS: whereas the patience, the prudence, the wisdom, the temperance and fortitude of ULYSSES, afford a pattern, the utility of which is not confined within the compass of courts and palaces, but descends and diffuses its influence over common life and daily practice. If the fairest examples ought to be placed before us in an age prone to imitation, if patriotism be preferable to implacability, if an eager desire to return to one's country and family be more manly and noble than an eager desire to be revenged of

an enemy, then should our eyes rather be fixed on ULYSSES than ACHILLES. Unexperienced minds, too easily captivated with the fire and fury of a gallant general, are apt to prefer courage to constancy, and firmness to humanity. We do not behold the destroyers of peace and the murderers of mankind, with the detestation due to their crimes ; because we have been inured almost from our infancy to listen to the praises that have been wantonly lavished on them by the most exquisite poetry ; “ the Muses,” to apply the words of an ancient Lyric, “ have concealed “ and decorated the bloody sword with “ wreaths of myrtle.” Let the ILIAD be ever ranked at the head of human compositions for its spirit and sublimity ; but let not the milder, and perhaps more insinuating and attractive beauties of the ODYSSEY be despised and overlooked. In the one we are placed amidst the rage of storms and tempests :

Ὡς δ' ὑπο λαίλαπι πᾶσα κελευνη βεβριθε χθονί
 Ἡματ' ὀπωρινῷ, ὅτε λαβροτάτου χεῖρ ὑδωρ
 Ζεὺς, ὅτε δὴ ρ' ἀνδρείοισι κοτίσσεσθαι χάλειπνεν.

Iliad XVI. 384.

And

And when in autumn Jove his fury pours,
And earth is loaden with incessant showers :
From their deep beds he bids the rivers rise,
And opens all the flood-gates of the skies.

POPE.

In the other, all is tranquil and sedate, and
calmly delightful :

——— ΟΥΤΕ ΠΟΤ' ΟΜΕΡΩ,

'Αλλ' αἰεὶ Ζεφύροιο λιγυρνεϊούλας ἀριτάς

'Ωκεανὸς ἀνιστῶν ἀναψύχειν ἀνθρώπους.

Odyss. IV. 566.

Stern winter smiles on that auspicious clime ;
The fields are florid with unfading prime :
From the bleak pole no winds inclement blow,
Mild the round hail, or shake the fleecy snow ;
But from the breezy deep, the Blest inhale
The fragrant murmurs of the western gale.

POPE.

Accordingly, to distinguish the very different
natures of these poems, it was anciently
the practice of those who publickly recited
them, to represent the ILIAD, in allusion to
the bloodshed it described, in a robe of
scarlet ; and the ODYSSEY, on account
of the voyages it relates in an azure vest-
ment.

The predominant passion of ULYSSES be-
ing the love of his country, for the sake of
which

which he even refuses immortality, the poet has taken every occasion to display it in the liveliest and most striking colours. The first time we behold the hero, we find him disconsolately sitting on the solitary shore, sighing to return to Ithaca, *Νόστον οδυρομεναν*, weeping incessantly, and still casting his eyes upon the sea,

Πόντον ἐπ' ἀτρύγετον δερκεσκέτο, δακρυά λείβων.

“While a goddess,” says Minerva at the very beginning of the poem, “by her power
“and her allurements detains him from
“Ithaca, he is dying with desire to see even
“so much as the smoke arise from his much
“loved island : *tarda fluunt ingrataque tem-
“pora !*” While the luxurious Phæacians were enjoying a delicious banquet, he attended not to their mirth and music, for the time approached when he was to return to Ithaca : they had prepared a ship for him to set sail in the very next morning ; and the thoughts of his approach’ing happiness having engrossed all his soul,

He sat and ey’d the sun, and wish’d the night—

—— Δὴ γὰρ μενεαίειν ὕπνῳ ἔβη.

To

To represent his impatience more strongly, the poet adds a most expressive simile, suited to the simplicity of ancient times : “ The setting of the sun,” says he, “ was as well-
“ come and grateful to ULYSSES, as it is to
“ a well-laboured plowman, who earnestly
“ waits for its decline, that he may re-
“ turn to his supper, Δορπον εποιχεσθαι,
“ while his weary knees are painful to him
“ as he walks along.”

—————Βλαβεται δε τα γυναικοντι.

“ Notwithstanding all the pleasures and en-
“ dearments I received from Calypso,” yet
says our hero, “ I perpetually bedewed with
“ my tears the garments which this immortal
“ beauty gave to me.”

—————Ειματα δ' αιει

Δακρυσι δυνεσκον τα μοι ομβροτα δωκε Καλυψω.

We are presented in every page with fresh in-
stances of this love of his country ; and his
whole behaviour convinces us,

Ως ηδεν γλυκιου ης πατριδος ηδε τοκων

This generous sentiment runs like a golden
vein throughout the whole poem.

If

If this animating example were duly and deeply inculcated, how strong an impression would it necessarily make upon the yielding minds of youth, when melted and mollified by the warmth of such exalted poetry!

Nor is the ODYSSEY less excellent and useful, in the amiable pictures it affords of private affections and domestic tender-
nesses.

——— and all the charities

Of father, son, and brother——

MILTON.

When ULYSSES descends into the infernal regions, it is finely contrived that he should meet his aged mother ANTICLEA. After his first sorrow and surprize, he eagerly enquires into the causes of her death, and adds, “Doth my father yet live? does my
“son possess my dominions, or does he
“groan under the tyranny of some usurper
“who thinks I shall never return? is my
“wife still constant to my bed? or hath
“some noble Grecian married her?”—These questions are the very voice of nature and affection. ANTICLEA answers, that “she
“herself died with grief for the loss of ULYSSES; that LAERTES languishes away
“life in solitude and sorrow for him; and

“that

“ that PENELOPE perpetually and inconsolably bewails his absence, and sighs for his “ return.”

When the hero, disguised like a stranger, has the first interview with his father, whom he finds diverting his cares with rural amusements in his little garden, he informs him that he had seen his son on his travels, but now despairs of beholding him again. Upon this the sorrow of LAERTES is inexpressible: ULYSSES can counterfeit no longer, but exclaims ardently,

I, I am he! O father rise! behold
Thy son!

And the discovery of himself to TELEMACHUS, in the sixteenth book, in a speech of short and broken exclamations, is equally tender and pathetic.

The duties of universal benevolence, of charity, and of hospitality, that unknown and unpractised virtue, are perpetually inculcated with more emphasis and elegance than in any ancient philosopher, and I wish I could not add than in any modern. ULYSSES meets with a friendly reception in all the various nations to which he is driven ;
who

who declare their inviolable obligation to protect and cherish the stranger and the wanderer. Above all, how amiable is the behaviour of EUMEUS to his unknown master, who asks for his charity. "it is not lawful for me," says the $\Delta\iota\omicron\varsigma$ 'Υφους, "I dare not despise any stranger or indigent man, even if he were much meaner than thou appearest to be; for the poor and strangers are sent to us by JUPITER!" "Keep," says EPICTETUS, "continually in thy memory, what EUMEUS speaks in HOMER to the disguised ULYSSES." I am sensible, that many superficial French critics have endeavoured to ridicule all that passes at the lodge of EUMEUS, as coarse and indelicate, and below the dignity of Epic poetry: but let them attend to the following observation of the greatest genius of their nation: "Since it is delightful," says FENELON, "to see in one of TITIAN's landscapes the goats climbing up a hanging rock, or to behold in one of TENIER's pieces a country feast and rustic dances; it is no wonder, that we are pleased with such natural descriptions as we find in the ODYSSEY. This simplicity of manners
seems

“ seems to recall the golden age. I am more
 “ pleased with honest EUMEUS, than with
 “ the polite heroes of Clelia or Cleopatra.”

The moral precepts with which every page of the ODYSSEY is pregnant, are equally noble. PLATO's wish is here accomplished ; for we behold VIRTUE personally appearing to the sons of men, in her most awful and most alluring charms.

The remaining reasons, why the ODYSSEY is equal, if not superior to the ILIAD, and why it is a poem most peculiarly proper for the perusal of youth, are ; because the great variety of events and scenes it contains, interest and engage the attention more than the ILIAD ; because characters and images drawn from familiar life, are more useful to the generality of readers, and are also more difficult to be drawn ; and because the conduct of this poem, considered as the most perfect of Epopees, is more artful and judicious than that of the other. The discussion of these beauties will make the subject of some ensuing paper.

Z

N^o 76. SATURDAY, July 28, 1753.

*Duc me, PARENS, celsique dominator poli,
Quocunque placuit ; nulla parendi mora est ;
Adsum impiger. Fac nolle ; comitabor gemens
Malusque patiar, quod bono licuit pati.*

SENECA ex CLEANTHE.

Conduct me, thou of beings cause divine,
Where'er I'm destin'd in thy great design !
Active, I follow on : for should my will
Resist, I'm impious ; but must follow still.

HARRIS.

BOZALDAB, Caliph of Egypt, had dwelt securely for many years in the filken pavilions of pleasure, and had every morning anointed his head with the oil of gladness, when his only son ABORAM, for whom he had crowded his treasuries with gold, extended his dominions with conquests, and secured them with impregnable fortresses, was suddenly wounded, as he was hunting, with an arrow from an unknown hand, and expired in the field.

BOZALDAB, in the distraction of grief and despair, refused to return to his palace, and retired to the gloomiest grotto in the neighbouring

bounding mountain : he there rolled himself
 on the dust, tore away the hairs of his hoary
 beard, and dashed the cup of consolation
 that patience offered him to the ground. He
 suffered not his minstrels to approach his
 presence ; but listened to the screams of the
 melancholy birds of midnight, that flit
 through the solitary vaults and echoing
 chambers of the Pyramids. “ Can that
 “ GOD be benevolent,” he cried, “ who
 “ thus wounds the soul, as from an ambush,
 “ with unexpected sorrows, and crushes
 “ his creatures in a moment with irremedi-
 “ able calamity ? Ye lying Imans, prate to
 “ us no more of the justice and the kindness
 “ of an all-directing and all-loving PROVI-
 “ DENCE ! He, whom ye pretend reigns
 “ in heaven, is so far from protecting the
 “ miserable sons of men, that he perpetually
 “ delights to blast the sweetest flowerets in
 “ the garden of HOPE ; and, like a malig-
 “ nant giant, to beat down the strongest
 “ towers of HAPPINESS with the iron mace
 “ of his anger. If this Being possessed the good-
 “ ness and the power with which flattering
 “ priests have invested him, he would doubt-
 “ less be inclined, and enabled to banish

“those evils which render the world a dungeon of distress, a vale of vanity and woe.
“—I will continue in it no longer !”

At that moment he furiously raised his hand which DESPAIR had armed with a dagger, to strike deep into his bosom ; when suddenly thick flashes of lightning shot through the cavern, and a being of more than human beauty and magnitude, arrayed in azure robes, crowned with amaranth, and waving a branch of palm in his right hand, arrested the arm of the trembling and astonished CALIPH, and said with a majestic smile, “Follow me to the top of this
“mountain.”

“Look from hence,” said the awful conductor ; “I am CALOC, the Angel of
“PEACE ; Look from hence into the valley.”

BOZALDAB opened his eyes and beheld a barren, a sultry, and solitary island, in the midst of which sat a pale, meagre, and ghastly figure : it was a merchant just perishing with famine, and lamenting that he could find neither wild berries nor a single spring in this forlorn uninhabited desert ; and begging the protection of heaven against the tigers that would now certainly destroy him,

him, since he had consumed the last fuel he had collected to make nightly fires to affright them. He then cast a casket of jewels on the sand, as trifles of no use; and crept, feeble and trembling, to an eminence, where he was accustomed to sit every evening to watch the setting sun, and to give a signal to any ship that might haply approach the island.

"Inhabitant of heaven," cried BOZALDAB, "suffer not this wretch to perish by the fury of wild beasts." "Peace," said the ANGEL, "and observe."

He looked again, and behold a vessel arrived at the desolate isle. What words can paint the rapture of the starving merchant, when the captain offered to transport him to his native country, if he would reward him with half the jewels of his casket? No sooner had this pitiless commander received the stipulated sum, than he held a consultation with his crew, and they agreed to seize the remaining jewels, and leave the unhappy exile in the same helpless and lamentable condition in which they discovered him. He wept and trembled, intreated and implored in vain.

“ Will HEAVEN permit such injustice to
“ be practised,” exclaimed BOZALDAB ?
“ Look again,” said the ANGEL, “ and
“ behold the very ship in which, short sighted
“ as thou art, thou wishedst the merchant
“ might embark, dashed to pieces on a rock :
“ dost thou not hear the cries of the sinking
“ sailors ? Presume not to direct the GOVER-
“ NOR of the UNIVERSE in his disposal of
“ events. The man whom thou hast pitied
“ shall be taken from this dreary solitude, but
“ not by the method thou wouldst prescribe.
“ His vice was avarice, by which he became
“ not only abominable, but wretched ;
“ he fancied some mighty charm in wealth,
“ which, like the wand of ABDIEL, would
“ gratify every wish and obviate every fear.
“ This wealth he has now been taught not
“ only to despise but abhor : he cast his
“ jewels upon the sand, and confessed them
“ to be useless ; he offered part of them to
“ the mariners, and perceived them to be
“ pernicious : he has now learnt, that they
“ are rendered useful or vain, good or evil,
“ only by the situation and temper of the
“ possessor. Happy is he whom distresses has
“ taught

“taught wisdom ! But turn thine eyes to
“another and more interesting scene.”

The CALIPH instantly beheld a magnificent palace adorned with the statues of his ancestors wrought in jasper ; the ivory doors of which, turning on hinges of the gold of Golconda, discovered a throne of diamonds, surrounded with the RAJAS of fifty nations, and with ambassadors in various habits, and of different complexions ; on which sat ABORAM, the much-lamented son of BozALDAB, and by his side a princess fairer than a Houri.

“Gracious ALLA !—it is my son,” cried the CALIPH. “O let me hold him to my heart !” “Thou canst not grasp an unsubstantial vision,” replied the ANGEL : “I am now shewing thee what would have been the destiny of thy son, had he continued longer on the earth.” “And why,” returned BozALDAB, “was he not permitted to continue ? Why was not I suffered to be a witness of so much felicity and power ?” “Consider the sequel,” replied he that dwells in the fifth heaven. BozALDAB looked earnestly, and saw the countenance of his son, on which he had been used to

behold the placid smile of simplicity and the vivid blushes of health, now distorted with rage, and now fixed in the insensibility of drunkenness: it was again animated with disdain, it became pale with apprehension, and appeared to be withered by intemperance; his hands were stained with blood, and he trembled by turns with fury and terror: the palace so lately shining with oriental pomp, changed suddenly into the cell of a dungeon, where his son lay stretched out on the cold pavement, gagged and bound, with his eyes put out. Soon after he perceived the favourite Sultana, who before was seated by his side, enter with a bowl of poison, which she compelled ABORAM to drink, and afterwards married the successor to his throne.

“Happy,” said CALOC, “is he whom PROVIDENCE has by the angel of death snatched from guilt! from whom that power is withheld, which, if he had possessed, would have accumulated upon himself yet greater misery than it could bring upon others.”

“It is enough,” cried BOZALDAB; “I adore the inscrutable schemes of OMNISCIENCE!--From what dreadful evil has
“ my

“ my son been rescued by a death, which
 “ I rashly bewailed as unfortunate and prema-
 “ ture ; a death of innocence and peace,
 “ which has blessed his memory upon earth,
 “ and transmitted his spirit to the skies !”

“ Cast away the dagger,” replied the heavenly messenger, “ which thou wast preparing to plunge into thine own heart. Exchange complaint for silence, and doubt for adoration. Can a mortal look down, without giddiness and stupefaction, into the vast abyss of ETERNAL WISDOM ? Can a mind that sees not infinitely, perfectly comprehend any thing among an infinity of objects mutually relative ? Can the channels, which thou commandest to be cut to receive the annual inundations of the NILE, contain the waters of the OCEAN ? Remember, that perfect happiness cannot be conferred on a creature ; for perfect happiness is an attribute as incommunicable as perfect power and eternity.”

The ANGEL, while he was speaking thus, stretched out his pinions to fly back to the Empyreum ; and the flutter of his wings was like the rushing of a cataract.

N^o 77. TUESDAY, July 31, 1753.

—*Peccare docentes*

Fallax historias monet.

HOR.

To tint th' attentive mind she tries

With tales of exemplary vice.

TO THE ADVENTURER.

S I R,

I SHALL make no apology for the trouble I am about to give you, since I am sure the motives that induce me to give it, will have as much weight with you as they have with me: I shall therefore, without further preface, relate to you the events of a life, which, however insignificant and unenterprising, affords a lesson of the highest importance; a lesson, the value of which I have experienced, and may, therefore, commend.

I am the daughter of a gentleman of good family, who, as he was a younger brother, purchased with the portion that was allotted him, a genteel post under the government. My mother died when I was but twelve
years

years old ; and my father, who was excessively fond of me, determined to be himself my preceptor, and to take care that my natural genius, which his partiality made him think above the common rank, should not want the improvements of a liberal education.

He was a man of sense, with a tolerable share of learning. In his youth he had been a free-liver, and perhaps for that reason took some pains to become what is called a free-thinker. But whatever fashionable frailties he might formerly have allowed in himself, he was now in advanced life, and had at least worldly wisdom enough to know, that it was necessary his daughter should be restrained from those liberties, which he had looked upon as trifling errors in his own conduct. He, therefore, laboured with great application to inculcate in me the love of order, the beauty of moral rectitude, and the happiness and self-reward of virtue ; but at the same time professed it his design to free my mind from vulgar prejudices and superstition, for so he called REVEALED RELIGION. As I was urged to chuse virtue,
and

and reject vice, from motives which had no necessary connection with immortality, I was not led to consider a future state either with hope or fear: my father indeed, when I urged him upon that subject, always intimated that the doctrine of immortality, whether true or false, ought not at all to influence my conduct or interrupt my peace; because the virtue which secured happiness in the present state, would also secure it in a future: a future state, therefore, I wholly disregarded, and, to confess a truth, disbelieved: for I thought I could plainly discover that it was disbelieved by my father, though he had not thought fit explicitly to declare his sentiments. As I had no very turbulent passions, a ductile and good disposition, and the highest reverence for his understanding, as well as the tenderest affection for him, he found it an easy task to make me adopt every sentiment and opinion which he proposed to me as his own; especially, as he took care to support his principles by the authority and arguments of the best writers against CHRISTIANITY. At the age of twenty I was called upon to make use of all the philosophy I had been taught, by his death;

death ; which not only deprived me of a parent I most ardently loved, but with him of all the ease and affluence to which I had been accustomed. His income was only for life, and he had rather lived beyond than within it ; consequently, there was nothing left for me but the pride and helplessness of genteel life, a taste for every thing elegant, and a delicacy and sensibility that has doubled all my sufferings. In this distress a brother of my mother's, who was grown rich in trade, received me into his house, and declared he would take the same care of me as if I had been his own child. When the first transports of my grief were abated, I found myself in an easy situation, and from the natural cheerfulness of my temper, I was beginning once more to taste of happiness. My uncle, who was a man of a narrow understanding and illiberal education, was a little disgusted with me for employing so much of my time in reading ; but still more so, when, happening to examine my books, he found by the titles that some of them were what he called blasphemy, and tended, as he imagined, to make me an Athiest. I endeavoured to explain my principles, which I thought it beneath the dignity of virtue to disguise

disguise or disavow ; but as I never could make him conceive any difference between a Deist and an Atheist, my arguments only served to confirm him in the opinion that I was a wicked wretch, who, in his own phrase, believed neither God nor Devil. As he was really a good man, and heartily zealous for the established faith, though more from habit and prejudice than reason, my errors gave him great affliction : I perceived it with the utmost concern ; I perceived too, that he looked upon me with a degree of abhorrence mixed with pity, and that I was wholly indebted to his good-nature for that protection which I had flattered myself I should owe to his love. I comforted myself however, with my own integrity, and even felt a conscious pride in suffering this persecution from ignorance and folly, only because I was superior to vulgar errors and popular superstition ; and that CHRISTIANITY deserved these appellations, I was not more convinced by my father's arguments than my uncle's conduct, who, as his zeal was not according to knowledge, was by no means qualified to " adorn the doctrine which he " professed to believe."

I had

I had lived a few months under the painful sensibility of receiving continual benefits from a person whose esteem and affection I had lost, when my uncle one day came into my chamber, and after preparing me for some unexpected good fortune, told me, he had just had a proposal of marriage for me from a man to whom I could not possibly have any objection. He then named a merchant, with whom I had often been in company at his table. As the man was neither old nor ugly, had a large fortune and a fair character, my uncle thought himself sufficiently authorised to pronounce as he did, that I could not possibly have any objection to him. An objection, however, I had, which I told my uncle was to me insuperable; it was, that the person whom he proposed to me as the companion, the guide and director of my whole life, to whom I was to vow not only obedience but love, had nothing in him that could ever engage my affection: his understanding was low, his sentiments mean and indelicate, and his manner unpolite and unpleasing.

——“What stuff is all this,” interrupted my uncle, “sentiments indelicate! “unpolite! his understanding, forsooth,
not

“ not equal to your own ! Ah, child if you
“ had less romance, conceit and arrogance,
“ and more true discretion and prudence, it
“ would do you more good than all the fine
“ books you have confounded your poor head
“ with, and what is worse, perhaps ruined
“ your poor soul. I own, it went a little
“ against my conscience to accept my honest
“ friend’s kind offer, and give him such a
“ pagan for his wife ? But how know I whe-
“ ther the believing husband may not
“ convert the unbelieving wife ?—As to your
“ flighty objections, they are such non-
“ sense, that I wonder you can suppose me
“ fool enough to be deceived by them. No,
“ child ; wife as you are, you cannot im-
“ pose upon a man who has lived as many
“ years in the world as I have. I see your
“ motive ; you have some infidel libertine
“ rake in your eye, with whom you would
“ go headlong to perdition. But I shall take
“ care not to have your soul to answer for as
“ well as your person. Either I shall dispose
“ of you to an honest man that may convert
“ you, or you shall dispose of yourself how
“ you please for me ; for I disclaim all
“ further care or trouble about you : so I
“ leave you to consider, whether or no the
kindness

“ kindness I have shewn you, entitles me to
 “ some little influence over you, and whether
 “ you chuse to seek protection where you can
 “ find it, or accept of the happy lot providence has cut out for you.”

He left me at the close of this fine harangue, and I seriously set myself to consider as he bade me, which of the two states he had set before me I ought to chuse ; to submit to a legal sort of prostitution, with the additional weight of perjury on my conscience, or to expose myself to all the distresses of friendless poverty, and unprotected youth.

After some hours of deliberation, I determined on the latter, and that more from principle than inclination ; for though my delicacy would have suffered extremely in accepting a husband, at least indifferent to me ; yet as my heart was perfectly disengaged, and my temper naturally easy, I thought I could have been less unhappy in following my uncle's advice, than I might probably be by rejecting it : but then I must have submitted to an action I could not think justifiable, in order to avoid mere external distresses. This would not have been philosophical. I had always been taught, that

virtue

virtue was of itself sufficient to happiness ; and that those things which are generally esteemed evils, could have no power to disturb the felicity of a mind governed by the eternal rule of right, and truly enamoured of the charms of moral beauty. I resolved, therefore, to run all risks, rather than depart from this glorious principle ; I felt myself raised by the trial, and exulted in the opportunity of shewing my contempt of the smiles or frowns of fortune, and of proving the power of virtue to sustain the soul under all accidental circumstances of distress.

I communicated my resolution to my uncle, assuring him at the same time of my everlasting gratitude and respect, and that nothing should have induced me to offend or disobey him, but his requiring me to do what my reason and conscience disapproved : that supposing the advantages of riches to be really as great as he believed, yet still those of virtue were greater, and I could not resolve to purchase the one by a violation of the other ; that a false vow was certainly criminal ; and that it would be doing an act of the highest injustice, to enter into so solemn

lemn an engagement without the power of fulfilling it; that my affection, did not depend on my own will; and that no man should possess my person, who could not obtain the first place in my heart.

I was surprized that my uncle's impatience had permitted me to go on thus far; but looking in his face, I perceived that passion had kept him silent. At length the gathering storm burst over my head in a torrent of reproaches. My reasons were condemned as romantic absurdities, which I could not myself believe; I was accused of designing to deceive, and to throw myself away on some worthless fellow, whose principles were as bad as my own. It was in vain for me to assert that I had no such design, nor any inclination to marry at all; my uncle could sooner have believed the grossest contradiction, than that a young woman could so strenuously refuse one man without being prepossessed in favour of another. As I thought myself injured by his accusations and tyranny, I gave over the attempt to mitigate his anger. He appealed to heaven for the justice of his resentment, and against my ingratitude and rebellion; and then giving me a note of fifty

pounds, which he said would keep me from immediate indigence, he bade me leave his house, and see his face no more. I bowed in sign of obedience; and collecting all my dignity and resolution, I arose, thanked him for his past benefits, and with a low curt'fy left the room.

In less than an hour I departed with my little wardrobe to the house of a person who had formerly been my father's servant, and who now kept a shop and let lodgings. From hence I went the next day to visit my father's nephew, who was in possession of the family estate, and had lately married a lady of great fortune. He was a young gentleman of good parts, his principles the same as my father's, though his practice had not been quite agreeable to the strict rules of morality: however, setting aside a few of those vices which are looked upon as genteel accomplishments in young fellows of fortune, I thought him a good sort of man; and as we had always lived in great kindness I doubted not that I should find him my friend, and meet with approbation and encouragement at least, if not assistance from him. I told him my story, and the reasons that had determined
me

me to the refusal that had incurred my uncle's displeasure. But how was I disappointed, when, instead of the applause I expected for my heroic virtue and unmerited persecutions, I perceived a smile of contempt on his face, when he interrupted me in the following manner : " And
 " what, in the devil's name, my dear cousin,
 " could make a woman of your sense behave
 " so like an idiot : What ! forfeit all your
 " hopes from your uncle, refuse an excellent
 " match, and reduce yourself to beggary,
 " because truly you were not in love ? Surely,
 " one might have expected better from you
 " even at fifteen. Who is it pray that marries the
 " person of their choice ? For my own part,
 " who have rather a better title to please my-
 " self with a good fifteen hundred a year,
 " than you who have not a shilling, I found
 " it would not do, and that there was some-
 " thing more to be sought after in a wife
 " than a pretty face or a genius ? Do you
 " think I cared three farthings for the wo-
 " man I married ? No, faith. But her
 " thirty thousand pounds were worth ha-
 " ving ; with that I can purchase a seraglio
 " of beauties, and indulge my taste in every
 " kind of pleasure. And pray what is it to

“ me whether my wife has beauty, or wit,
“ or elegance, when her money will supply
“ me with all that in others ? You, cousin,
“ had an opportunity of being as happy as I
“ am : the men, believe me, would not
“ like you a bit the worse for being married ;
“ on the contrary, you would find, that for
“ one who took notice of you as a single wo-
“ man, twenty would be your admirers and
“ humble servants when there was no dan-
“ ger of being taken-in. Thus you might
“ have gratified all your passions, made an
“ elegant figure in life, and have chosen out
“ some gentle swain as romantic and poeti-
“ cal as you pleased for your Cecisbe. The
“ good John Trot husband would have been
“ easily managed, and——” Here my in-
dignation could be detained no longer, and
I was leaving the room in disdain, when he
caught me by the hand——“ Nay, pr’ythee,
“ my dear cousin, none of these violent airs:
“ I thought you and I had known one ano-
“ ther better. Let the poor souls, who are
“ taught by the priests and their nurses to be
“ afraid of hell-fire, and to think they shall
“ go to the devil for following nature and
“ making life agreeable, be as outrageously
“ virtuous

“ virtuous as they please: you have too
 “ much sense to be frightened at bugbears;
 “ you know that the term of your existence is
 “ but short; and it is highly reasonable
 “ to make it as pleasant as possible.”——I
 was too angry to attempt consulting his ar-
 guments; but bursting from his hold, told
 him I would take care not to give him a se-
 cond opportunity of insulting my distress,
 and affronting my understanding; and so left
 his house with a resolution never to enter it
 again.

Y

N^o 78. SATURDAY, *August 4*, 1753.

——*Propter vitam vivendi perdere causas.* JUV.

Nor quit for life, what gives to life its worth.

I WENT home mortified and disappointed.
 My spirits sunk into a dejection, which
 took from me for many days all inclination
 to stir out of my lodging, or to see a human
 face. At length I resolved to try, whether
 indigence and friendship were really incompat-
 ible, and whether I should meet with the
 same treatment from a female friend, whose
 affection had been the principal pleasure of my
 youth.

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youth. Surely, thought I, the gentle AMANDA, whose heart seems capable of every tender and generous sentiment, will do justice to the innocence and integrity of her unfortunate friend ; her tenderness will encourage my virtue and animate my fortitude, her praises and endearments will compensate all my hardships. AMANDA was a single woman of a moderate independent fortune, which I heard she was going to bestow on a young officer, who had little or nothing besides his commission. I had no doubt of her approbation of my refusing a mercenary match, since she herself had chosen from motives so opposite to those which are called prudent. She had been in the country some months, so that my misfortunes had not reached her ear till I myself related them to her. She heard me with great attention, and answered me with politeness enough, but with a coldness that chilled my very heart. " You are sensible, my dear FIDELIA," said she, " that I never pretended to set my understanding in competition with yours. " I knew my own inferiority ; and though " many of your notions and opinions appeared " to me very strange and particular, I never attempted

“ attempted to dispute them with you. To
 “ be sure, you know best ; but it seems to
 “ me a very odd conduct for one in your situ-
 “ ation to give offence to so good an uncle ;
 “ first by maintaining doctrines which may
 “ be very true for ought I know, but which
 “ are very contrary to the received opinions
 “ we are brought up in, and therefore are
 “ apt to shock a common understanding ;
 “ and secondly, to renounce his protection,
 “ and throw yourself into the wide world,
 “ rather than marry the man he chose for
 “ you ; to whom, after all, I do not find
 “ you had any real objection, nor any anti-
 “ pathy for his person.”—Antipathy, my
 dear ! said I ; are there not many de-
 grees between loving and honouring a man
 preferably to all others, and beholding him
 with abhorrence and aversion ? The first is,
 in my opinion, the duty of a wife, a duty
 voluntarily taken upon herself, and engaged
 in under the most solemn contract. As to
 the difficulties that may attend my friendless,
 unprovided state, since they are the conse-
 quences of a virtuous action, they cannot
 really be evils, nor can they disturb that
 happiness which is the gift of virtue. “ I

"am heartily glad," answered she, "that
"you have found the art of making your-
"self happy by the force of imagination?
"I wish your enthusiasm may continue;
"and that you may still be farther convinced,
"by your own experience, of the folly of
"mankind, in supposing poverty and disgrace
"to be evils."

I was cut to the soul by the unkind manner which accompanied this sarcasm, and was going to remonstrate against her unfriendly treatment, when her lover came in with another gentleman, who in spite of my full heart, engaged my attention, and for a while made me forget the stings of unkindness. The beauty and gracefulness of his person caught my eye, and the politeness of his address and the elegance of his compliments soon prejudiced me in favour of his understanding. He was introduced by the CAPTAIN to AMANDA as his most intimate friend, and seemed desirous to give credit to his friend's judgment by making himself as agreeable as possible. He succeeded so well, that AMANDA was wholly engrossed by the pleasure of his conversation, and the care of entertaining her lover and her new

guest; her face brightened, and her good humour returned. When I arose to leave her, she pressed me so earnestly to stay dinner, that I could not, without discovering how much I resented her behaviour, refuse. This, however, I should probably have done, as I was naturally disposed to shew every sentiment of my heart, had not a secret wish arose there to know a little more of this agreeable stranger. This inclined me to think it prudent to conceal my resentment, and to accept the civilities of AMANDA. The conversation grew more and more pleasing: I took my share in it, and had more than my share of the charming stranger's notice and attention. As we all grew more and more unreserved, AMANDA dropt hints in the course of the conversation relating to my story, my sentiments, and unhappy situation. Sir GEORGE FREELOVE, for that was the young gentleman's name, listened greedily to all that was said of me, and seemed to eye me with earnest curiosity as well as admiration. We did not part till it was late, and Sir GEORGE insisted on attending me to my lodgings; I strongly refused it, not without a sensation which more properly

properly belonged to the female than the philosopher, and which I condemned in myself as arising from dishonest pride. I could not without pain suffer the polite Sir GEORGE, upon so short an acquaintance, to discover the meanness of my abode. To avoid this, I sent for a chair, but was confused to find, that Sir GEORGE and his servants prepared to attend it on foot by way of guard ; it was in vain to dispute ; he himself walked before, and his servants followed it. I was covered with blushes, when, after all this parade, he handed me in at the little shop door, and took leave with as profound respect as if he had guarded me to a palace. A thousand different thoughts kept me from closing my eyes that night. The behaviour of AMANDA wounded me to the soul : I found that I must look on her as no more than a common acquaintance ; and that the world did not contain one person whom I could call my friend. My heart felt desolate and forlorn ; I knew not what course to take for my future subsistence ; the pain which my pride had just given me, convinced me that I was far from having conquered the passions of humanity,

ty, and that I should feel too sensibly all the mortifications which attend on poverty. I determined, however, to subdue this pride, and called to my assistance the examples of ancient sages and philosophers, who despised riches and honours, and felt no inconveniences from the malice of fortune. I had almost reasoned myself into a contempt for the world, and fancied myself superior to its smiles or frowns; when the idea of Sir GEORGE FREELOVE rushed upon my mind, and destroyed at once the whole force of my reasoning. I found that however I might disregard the rest of the world, I could not be indifferent to his opinion; and the thought of being despised by him was insupportable. I recollected that my condition was extremely different from that of an old philosopher, whose rags perhaps were the means of gratifying his pride, by attracting the notice and respect of mankind: at least, the philosopher's schemes and wishes were very different from those which at that time were taking possession of my heart. The looks and behaviour of Sir GEORGE left me no doubt that I had made as deep an impression in his favour, as he had done in mine. I could
am

not bear to lose the ground I had gained, and to throw myself into a state below his notice. I scorned the thoughts of imposing on him with regard to my circumstances, in case he should really have had favourable intentions for me ; yet to disgrace myself for ever in his eye, by submitting to servitude, or any low way of supporting myself, was what I could not bring myself to resolve on.

In the midst of these reflections I was surprized the next morning by a visit from Sir GEORGE. He made respectful apologies for the liberty he took ; told me he had learnt from my friend, that the unkindness and tyranny of an uncle had cast me into uneasy circumstances ; and that he could not know, that so much beauty and merit were so unworthily treated by fortune, without earnestly wishing to be the instrument of doing me more justice. He entreated me to add dignity and value to his life by making it conducive to the happiness of mine ; and was going on with the most fervent offers of service, when I interrupted him by saying, that there was nothing in his power that I could with honour accept, by which my life could be made happier, but that respect
which

which was due to me as a woman and a gentlewoman, and which ought to have prevented such offers of service from a stranger, as could only be justified by a long experienced friendship; that I was not in a situation to receive visits, and must decline his acquaintance, which nevertheless in a happier part of my life would have given me pleasure.

He now had recourse to all the arts of his sex, imputing his too great freedom to the force of his passion, protesting the most inviolable respect, and imploring on his knees, and even with tears, that I would not punish him so severely as to deny him the liberty of seeing me, and making himself more and more worthy of my esteem. My weak heart was but too much touched by his artifices, and I had only just fortitude enough to persevere in refusing his visits, and to insist on his leaving me, which at last he did; but it was after such a profusion of tenderness, prayers, and protestations, that it was some time before I could recal my reason enough to reflect on the whole of his behaviour, and on my own situation, which compared, left me but little doubt of his dishonourable views.

I de-

I determined never more to admit him to my presence, and accordingly gave orders to be denied if he came again. My reason applauded, but my heart reproached me, and heavily repined at the rigid determination of prudence. I knew that I acted rightly, and I expected that consciousness would make me happy, but I found it otherwise ; I was wretched beyond what I had ever felt or formed any idea of ; I discovered that my heart was entangled in a passion which must for ever be combated, or indulged at the expence of virtue. I now considered riches as truly desirable, since they would have placed me above disgraceful attempts, and given me reasonable hopes of becoming the wife of Sir GEORGE FREELove. I was discontented and unhappy, but surprized and disappointed to find myself so, since hitherto I had no one criminal action to reproach myself with ; on the contrary, my difficulties were all owing to my regard for virtue.

I resolved, however to try still farther the power of virtue to confer happiness, to go on in my obedience to her laws, and patiently wait for the good effects of it. But I had stronger difficulties to go through than any I had yet experienced. Sir GEORGE

was

was too much practised in the arts of seduction, to be discouraged by a first repulse: every day produced either some new attempt to see me, or a letter full of the most passionate protestations and entreaties for pardon and favour. It was in vain I gave orders that no more letters should be taken in from him; he had so many different contrivances to convey them, and directed them in hands so unlike, that I was surprised into reading them contrary to my real intentions. Every time I stirred out he was sure to be in my way, and to employ the most artful tongue that ever ensnared the heart of woman in blinding my reason and awakening my passions.

My virtue, however, did not yet give way, but my peace of mind was utterly destroyed. Whenever I was with him, I summoned all my fortitude, and constantly repeated my commands that he should avoid me. His disobedience called for my resentment, and, in spite of my melting heart, I armed my eyes with anger, and treated him with as much disdain as I thought his unworthy designs deserved. But the moment he left me, all my resolution forsook me. I repined at
my

my fate : I even murmured against the SOVEREIGN RULER of all things, for making me subject to passions which I could not subdue, yet must not indulge : I compared my own situation with that of my libertine cousin, whose pernicious arguments I had heard with horror and detestation, who gave the reins to every desire, whose house was the seat of plenty, mirth, and delight, whose face was ever covered with smiles, and whose heart seemed free from sorrow and care. Is not this man, said I, happier than I am ? And if so, where is the worth of virtue ? Have I not sacrificed to her my fortune and my friends ? Do I not daily sacrifice to her my darling inclination ? Yet what is the compensation she offers me ? What are my prospects in this world but poverty, mortification, disappointment and grief ? Every wish of my heart denied, every passion of humanity combated and hurt, though never conquered ! Are these the blessings with which HEAVEN distinguishes its favourites ? Can the KING OF HEAVEN want power or will to distinguish them ? Or does he leave his wretched creatures to be the sport of chance, the prey of wickedness and malice ?

Surely,

Surely, no. Yet is not the condition of the virtuous often more miserable than that of the vicious? I myself have experienced that it is. I am very unhappy, and see no likelihood of my being otherwise in this world—and all beyond the grave is eternal darkness. Yet why do I say, that I have no prospect of happiness? Does not the most engaging of men offer me all the joys that love and fortune can bestow? Will not he protect me from every insult of the proud world that scoffs at indigence? Will not his liberal hand pour forth the means of every pleasure, even of that highest and truest of all pleasures, the power of relieving the sufferings of my fellow-creatures, of changing the tears of distress into tears of joy and gratitude, of communicating my own happiness to all around me? Is not this a state far preferable to that in which virtue has placed me? But what is virtue? Is not happiness the laudable pursuit of reason? Is it not then laudable to pursue it by the most probable means? Have I not been accusing PROVIDENCE of unkindness, whilst I myself only am in fault for rejecting its offered favours? Surely, I have mistaken the path of virtue: it must be that

which leads to happiness. The path which I am in, is full of thorns and briars, and terminates in impenetrable darkness ; but I see another that is strewed with flowers, and bright with the sunshine of prosperity : this, surely, is the path of virtue, and the road to happiness. Hither then let me turn my weary steps, nor let vain and idle prejudices fright me from felicity. It is surely impossible that I should offend GOD, by yielding to a temptation which he has given me no motive to resist. He has allotted me a short and precarious existence, and has placed before me good and evil.—What is good but pleasure ? What is evil but pain ? Reason and nature direct me to chuse the first, and avoid the last. I sought for happiness in what is called virtue, but I found it not : shall I not try the other experiment, since I think I can hardly be more unhappy by following inclination, than I am by denying it ?

Thus had my frail thoughts wandered into a wilderness of error, and thus had I almost reasoned myself out of every principle of morality, by pursuing through all their consequences the doctrines which had been taught

me

me as rules of life and prescriptions for felicity, the talismans of TRUTH, by which I should be secured in the storms of adversity, and listen without danger to the syrens of temptation ; when in the fatal hour of my presumption, sitting alone in my chamber, collecting arguments on the side of passion, almost distracted with doubts, and plunging deeper and deeper into falsehood, I saw SIR GEORGE FREELOVE at my feet, who had gained admittance, contrary to my orders, by corrupting my landlady. It is not necessary to describe to you his arts, or the weak efforts of that virtue which had been graciously implanted in my heart, but which I had taken impious pains to undermine by false reasoning, and which now tottered from the foundation : suffice it that I submitted to the humiliation I have so well deserved, and tell you, that, in all the pride of human reason, I dared to condemn, as the effect of weakness and prejudice, the still voice of conscience which would yet have warned me from ruin ; that my innocence, my honour, was the sacrifice to passion and sophistry : that my boasted philosophy, and too much flattered understanding, preserved me not

from the lowest depth of infamy, which the weakest of my sex with humility and religion would have avoided.

I now experienced a new kind of wretchedness. My vile seducer tried in vain to reconcile me to the shameful life to which he had reduced me, by loading me with finery, and lavishing his fortune in procuring me pleasures which I could not taste, and pomp which seemed an insult on my disgrace. In vain did I recollect the arguments which had convinced me of the lawfulness of accepting offered pleasures, and following the dictates of inclination: the light of my understanding was darkened, but the sense of guilt was not lost. My pride and my delicacy, if, criminal as I was, I may dare to call it so, suffered the most intolerable mortification and disgust, every time I reflected on my infamous situation. Every eye seemed to upbraid me, even that of my triumphant seducer. O depth of misery! to be conscious of deserving the contempt of him I loved, and for whose sake I was become contemptible to myself.

Y

Nº

N^o 79. TUESDAY, *August 7, 1753.*

*Quisnam igitur liber ? Sapiens : sibi qui imperiosus ;
Quem neque pauperies, neque mors, neque vincula terrent :
Responsare cupidinibus, contemnere honores
Fortis : et in seipso totus : teres atque rotundus,
Externi ne quid valeat per læve morari.*

HOR.

Who then is free ?—The wise, who well maintains
An empire o'er himself : whom neither chains,
Nor want, nor death, with slavish fear inspire ;
Who boldly answers to his warm desire ;
Who can ambition's vainest gift despise ;
Firm in himself who on himself relies ;
Polish'd and round who runs his proper course,
And breaks misfortune with superior force.

FRANCIS.

THIS was my state of mind during a year which I passed in Sir GEORGE'S house. His fondness was unabated for eight months of the time ; and as I had no other object to share my attention, neither friend nor relation to call off any part of my tenderness, all the love of a heart naturally affectionate centered in him. The first dawnings of unkindness were but too visible to my watchful eyes. I had now all the torments

of jealousy to endure, till a cruel certainty put an end to them. I learnt at length, that my false lover was on the brink of marriage with a lady of great fortune. I immediately resolved to leave him ; but could not do it without first venting my full heart in complaints and reproaches. This provoked his rage, and drew on me insolence, which though I had deserved, I had not learnt to bear. I returned with scorn, which no longer became me, all the wages of my sin, and the trappings of my shame, and left his house in the bitterest anguish of resentment and despair.

I returned to my old lodgings ; but unable to bear a scene which recalled every circumstance of my undoing, ashamed to look in the face of any creature who had seen me innocent, wretched in myself, and hoping from change of place some abatement of my misery, I put myself into a postchaise at two in the morning, with orders to the driver to carry me as far from town as he could before the return of night, leaving it to him to chuse the road.

My reason and my senses seemed benumbed and stupified during my journey. I made no reflections on what I was about, nor formed
any

any design for my future life. When night came, my conductor would have stopt at a large town, but I bid him go on to the next village. There I alighted at a paltry inn, and dismissed my vehicle, without once considering what I was to do with myself, or why I chose that place for my abode. To say truth, I can give no account of my thoughts at this period of time : they were all confused and distracted. A short frenzy must have filled up those hours, of which my memory retains such imperfect traces. I remember only, that without having pulled off my clothes, I left the inn as soon as I saw the day, and wandered out of the village.

My unguided feet carried me to a range of willows by a river's side, where after having walked some time, the freshness of the air revived my senses, and awakened my reason. My reason, my memory, my anguish and despair, returned together ! Every circumstance of my past life was present to my mind ; but most the idea of my faithless lover and my criminal love tortured my imagination, and rent my bleeding heart, which, in spite of all its guilt and all its wrongs,

retained the tenderest and most ardent affection for its undoer. This unguarded affection, which was the effect of a gentle and kind nature, heightened the anguish of resentment, and completed my misery. In vain did I call off my thoughts from this gloomy retrospect, and hope to find a gleam of comfort in my future prospects. They were still more dreadful : poverty, attended by infamy and want, groaning under the cruel hand of oppression and the taunts of insolence, was before my eyes. I, who had once been the darling and the pride of indulgent parents, who had once been beloved, respected, and admired, was now the outcast of human nature, despised and avoided by all who had ever loved me, by all whom I had most loved ! hateful to myself, belonging to no one, exposed to wrongs and insults from all.

I tried to find out the cause of this dismal change, and how far I was myself the occasion of it. My conduct with respect to Sir GEORGE, though I spontaneously condemned, yet, upon recollection, I thought the arguments which produced it would justify. But as my principles could not preserve me
from

from vice, neither could they sustain me in adversity: conscience was not to be perverted by the sophistry which had beclouded my reason. And if any, by imputing my conduct to error, should acquit me of guilt, let them remember, it is yet true, that in this uttermost distress, I was neither sustained by the consciousness of innocence, the exultation of virtue, nor the hope of reward: whether I looked backward or forward, all was confusion and anguish, distraction and despair. I accused the SUPREME BEING of cruelty and injustice, who, though he gave me not sufficient encouragement to resist desire, yet punished me with the consequences of indulgence. If there is a GOD, cried I, he must be either tyrannical and cruel, or regardless of his creatures. I will no longer endure a being which is undeservedly miserable either from chance or design, but fly to that annihilation in which all my prospects terminate. Take back, said I, lifting my eyes to HEAVEN, the hateful gift of existence, and let my dust no more be animated to suffering, and exalted to misery.

So

So saying, I ran to the brink of the river, and was going to plunge in, when the cry of some person very near me made me turn my eyes to see whence it came. I was accosted by an elderly clergyman, who with looks of terror, pity and benevolence, asked what I was about to do? At first I was sullen, and refused to answer him; but by degrees the compassion he showed, and the tenderness with which he treated me, softened my heart, and gave vent to my tears.

“O! Madam,” said he, “these are gracious signs, and unlike those which first drew my attention, and made me watch you unobserved, fearing some fatal purpose in your mind. What must be the thoughts which could make a face like your’s appear the picture of horror! I was taking my morning walk, and have seen you a considerable time; sometimes stopping and wringing your hands, sometimes quickening your pace, and sometimes walking slow with your eyes fixed on the ground, till you raised them to HEAVEN, with looks not of supplication and piety, but rather of accusation and defiance. For pity tell me how is it that you have quarreled

“quarreled with yourself, with life, nay
 “even with HEAVEN? Recall your rea-
 “son and your hope, and let this season-
 “able prevention of your fatal purpose be an
 “earnest to you of good things to come, of
 “GOD’s mercy not yet alienated from you,
 “and stooping from his throne to save your
 “soul from perdition.”

The tears which flowed in rivers from my eyes while he talked, gave me so much relief, that I found myself able to speak, and desirous to express my gratitude for the good man’s concern for me. It was so long since I had known the joys of confidence, that I felt surprising pleasure and comfort from unburthening my heart, and telling my kind deliverer every circumstance of my story, and every thought of my distracted mind. He shuddered to hear me upbraid the DIVINE PROVIDENCE; and stopping me short, told me, he would lead me to one who should preach patience to me, whilst she gave me the example of it.

As we walked he led me to his own house, and there introduced me to his wife, a middle aged woman, pale and emaciated, but of a cheerful placid countenance, who received

ceived me with the greatest tenderness and humanity. She saw I was distressed, and her compassion was beforehand with my complaints. Her tears stood ready to accompany mine; her looks and her voice expressed the kindest concern; and her assiduous cares demonstrated that true politeness and hospitality, which is not the effect of art but of inward benevolence. While she obliged me to take some refreshment, her husband gave her a short account of my story and of the state in which he had found me. "This poor lady," said he, "from the fault of her education and principles, sees every thing through a gloomy medium: she accuses PROVIDENCE, and hates her existence for those evils, which are the common lot of mankind in this short state of trial. You, my dear, who are one of the greatest sufferers I have known, are best qualified to cure her of her faulty impatience; and to convince her, by your own example, that this world is not the place in which virtue is to find its reward. She thinks no one so unhappy as herself; but if she knew all that you have gone through, she would

“surely be sensible, that if you are happier
“than she, it is only because your principles
“are better.”

“Indeed my dear madam,” said she,
“that is the only advantage I have over you ;
“but that, indeed, outweighs every thing
“else. It is now but ten days since I
“followed to the grave my only son, the
“survivor of eight children, who were all
“equally the objects of my fondest love.
“My heart is no less tender than your own,
“nor my affections less warm. For a
“whole year before the death of my last
“darling, I watched the fatal progress of
“his disease, and saw him suffer the most
“amazing pains. Nor was poverty, that
“dreaded evil to which you could not sub-
“mit, wanting to my trials. Though
“my husband is by his profession a gentle-
“man, his income is so small, that I and
“my children have often wanted necessaries :
“and though I had always a weakly con-
“stitution, I have helped to support my fa-
“mily by the labour of my own hands. At
“this time I am consuming, by daily tor-
“tures, with a cancer which must shortly
“be my death. My pains, perhaps, might
be

“be mitigated by proper assistance, though
“nothing could preserve my life; but I have
“not the means to obtain that assistance.”

——O hold, interrupted I, my soul is shocked at the enumeration of such intolerable sufferings. How is it that you support them? Why do I not see you, in despair like mine, renounce your existence, and put yourself out of the reach of torment? But above all, tell me how it is possible for you to preserve, amidst such complicated misery, that appearance of cheerfulness and serene complacency which shines so remarkably in your countenance, and animates every look and motion?

“That cheerfulness and complacency,” answered the good woman, “I feel in my
“heart. My mind is not only serene, but
“often experiences the highest emotions
“of joy and exultation that the brightest
“hopes can give.” And whence said I, do you derive this astonishing art of extracting joy from misery, and of smiling amidst all the terrors of pain, sorrow, poverty, and death? She was silent a moment; then stepping to her closet, reached a BIBLE, which she put into my hands.

“See

" See there," said she, " the volume in
 " which I learn this art. Here I am taught
 " that everlasting glory is in store for all
 " who will accept it upon the terms which
 " INFINITE PERFECTION has prescribed ;
 " here I am promised consolation, assistance
 " and support from the LORD OF LIFE ;
 " and here I am assured that my transient
 " afflictions are only meant to fit me for
 " eternal and unspeakable happiness. This
 " happiness is at hand. The short remain-
 " der of my life seems but a point beyond
 " which opens the glorious prospect of
 " immortality. Thus encouraged, how
 " should I sink ? With such prospects,
 " such assured hopes, how can I be other-
 " wise than happy ?"

While she spoke, her eyes sparkled, and
 her whole face seemed animated with joy.
 I was struck with her manner, as well as
 her words. Every syllable she uttered
 seemed to sink into my soul, so that I never
 can forget it. I resolved to examine a re-
 ligion, which was capable of producing
 such effects as I could not attribute either to
 chance or error. The good couple pressed
 me with so much unaffected kindness, to
 make

make their little parsonage my asylum till I could better dispose of myself, that I accepted their offer. Here, with the assistance of the clergyman, who is a plain, sensible, and truly pious man, I have studied the HOLY SCRIPTURES, and the evidences of their authority. But after reading them with candour and attention, I found all the extrinsic arguments of their truth superfluous. The excellency of their precepts, the consistency of their doctrines, and the glorious motives and encouragements to virtue which they propose, together with the striking example I had before my eyes of their salutary effects, left me no doubt of their divine authority.

During the time of my abode here, I have been witness to the more than heroic, the joyful, the triumphant death of the dear good woman. With as much softness and tenderness as ever I saw in a female character, she shewed more dauntless intrepidity than the sternest philosopher or the proudest hero. No torment could shake the constancy of her soul, or length of pain wear out the strength of her patience. Death was to her an object not of horror but of hope.

When

When I heard her pour forth her last breath in thanksgiving, and saw the smile of ecstasy remain on her pale face when life was fled, I could not help crying out in the beautiful language I had lately learned from the SACRED WRITINGS, "O Death! where is thy sting? O Grave! where is thy victory?"

I am now preparing to leave my excellent benefactor, and get my bread in a service, to which he has recommended me, in a neighbouring family. A state of servitude, to which once I could not resolve to yield, appears no longer dreadful to me; that pride, which would have made it galling, CHRISTIANITY has subdued, though philosophy attempted it in vain. As a penitent, I should gratefully submit to mortification: but as a CHRISTIAN, I find myself superior to every mortification, except the sense of guilt. This has humbled me to the dust; but the full assurances that are given me by the SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD, of the DIVINE pardon and favour upon sincere repentance, have calmed my troubled spirit, and filled my mind with peace and joy, which the world can neither

give nor take away. Thus, without any change for the better in my outward circumstances, I find myself changed from a distracted, poor, despairing wretch, to a contented, happy, grateful being; thankful for, and pleased with my present state of existence, yet exulting in the hope of quitting it for endless glory and happiness.

O! Sir, tell the unthinking mortals, who will not take the pains of inquiring into those truths which most concern them, and who are led by fashion, and the pride of human reason, into a contempt for the SACRED ORACLES of GOD; tell them these amazing effects of the power of CHRISTIANITY: tell them this truth which experience has taught me, that, "Though VICE is constantly attended by misery, VIRTUE itself cannot confer happiness in this world, except it is animated with the hopes of eternal bliss in the world to come.

Y

"I am, &c.

"FIDELIA."

Nº 80. SATURDAY, August 11, 1753.

Non desunt crassi quidam, qui studiosos ab hujusmodi libris deterreant, ceu poeticks, ut vocant, & ad morum integritatem officientibus. Ego vero dignos censeo quos & omnibus in ludis prælegant adolescentiæ literatores: & sibi legant relegantque senos.

ERASMUS.

There are not wanting persons so dull and insensible, as to deter students from reading books of this kind, which, they say, are poetical, and pernicious to the purity of morals: but I am of opinion, that they are not only worthy to be read by the instructors of youth in their schools, but that the old and experienced should again and again peruse them.

GREATNESS, novelty, and beauty, are usually and justly reckoned the three principal sources of the pleasures that strike the imagination. If the *ILIAD* be allowed to abound in objects that may be referred to the first species, yet the *ODYSSEY* may boast a greater number of images that are beautiful and uncommon. The vast variety of scenes perpetually shifting before us, the train of unexpected events, and the many sudden turns of fortune in this diversified poem, must more deeply engage the reader, and keep his attention more alive and active,

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than

than the martial uniformity of the *ILIAD*. The continual glare of a single colour that unchangeably predominates throughout a whole piece, is apt to dazzle and disgust the eye of the beholder. I will not, indeed, presume to say ~~with~~ VOLTAIRE, that amongst the greatest admirers of antiquity, there is scarce one to be found, who could ever read the *ILIAD* with that eagerness and rapture, which a woman feels when she peruses the novel of *ZAYDE*; but will, however, venture to affirm, that the *SPECIOSA MIRACULA* of the *ODYSSEY* are better calculated to excite our curiosity and wonder, and to allure us forward with unextinguished impatience to the catastrophe, than the perpetual tumult and terror that reign through the *ILIAD*.

The boundless exuberance of his imagination, his unwearied spirit and fire, *ακαμάτου πύρ*, has enabled HOMER to diversify the descriptions of his battles with many circumstances of great variety: sometimes, by specifying the different characters, ages, professions, or nations, of his dying heroes; sometimes by describing different, kinds of wounds and deaths; and sometimes by tender

der and pathetic strokes, which remind the reader of the aged parent who is fondly expecting the return of his son just murdered, of the desolate condition of the widows who will now be enslaved, and of the children that will be dashed against the stones. But notwithstanding this delicate art and address in the poet, the subject remains the same; and from this sameness, it will, I fear, grow tedious and insipid to impartial readers; these small mortifications and adjuncts are not sufficiently efficacious to give the grace of novelty to repetition, and to make tautology delightful: the battles, are, indeed, nobly and variously painted, yet still they are only battles. But when we accompany ULYSSES through the manifold perils he underwent by sea and land, and visit with him the strange nations to which the anger of Neptune has driven him, all whose manners and customs are described in the most lively and picturesque terms; when we survey the wondrous monsters he encountered and escaped,

Antiphatem, Scyllamque, & eum Cyclope Charibdin;

Antiphates his hideous feast devour,

Charybdis bark and Polyphemus roar; FRANCIS.

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when we see him refuse the charms of Calypso, and the cup of Circe; when we descend with him into hell, and hear him converse with all the glorious heroes that assisted at the Trojan war; when, after struggling with ten thousand difficulties unforeseen and almost unsurmountable, he is at last restored to the peaceable possession of his kingdom and his queen; when such objects as these are displayed, so new and so interesting; when all the descriptions, incidents, scenes, and persons, differ so widely from each other; then it is that poetry becomes “a perpetual feast of nectared sweets,” and a feast of such an exalted nature, as to produce neither satiety or disgust.

But besides its variety, the ODYSSEY is the most amusing and entertaining of all other poems, on account of the pictures it preserves to us of ancient manners, customs, laws, and politics, and of the domestic life of the heroic ages. The more any nation becomes polished, the more the genuine feelings of nature are disguised, and their manners are consequently less adapted to bear a faithful description. Good-breeding is founded on the dissimulation or suppression of
of

of such sentiments, as may probably provoke or offend those with whom we converse. The little forms and ceremonies which have been introduced into civil life by the moderns, are not suited to the dignity and simplicity of the EPIC MUSE. The coronation feast of an European monarch would not shine half so much in poetry, as the simple supper prepared for ULYSSES at the Phæacian court; the gardens of ALCINOUS are much fitter for description than those of Versailles; and NAUSICAA, descending to the river to wash her garments, and dancing afterwards upon the banks with her fellow virgins, like Diana amidst her nymphs,

Ῥεῖα δ' ἀρίγνωτω πλεῖται, καλαὶ δὲ τε πάσαι,
Tho' all are fair, she shines above the rest,

is a far more graceful figure, than the most glittering lady in the drawing-room, with a complexion plaistered to repair the vigils of cards, and a shape violated by a stiff brocade and an immeasurable hoop. The compliment also which ULYSSES pays to his innocent unadorned beauty, especially when he compares her to a young palm-tree of Delos, contains more gallantry and elegance, than the most applauded sonnet of the politest

French marquis that ever rhymed. However indelicate I may be esteemed, I freely confess I had rather sit in the grotto of CARYPSO, than in the most pompous saloon of LOUIS XV. The tea and the card-tables can be introduced with propriety and success only in the mock heroic, as they have been very happily in the Rape of the Lock ; but the present modes of life must be forgotten when we attempt any thing in the serious or sublime poetry ; for heroism disdains the luxurious refinements, the false delicacy and state of modern ages. The primeval, I was about to say, patriarchal simplicity of manners displayed in the ODYSSEY, is a perpetual source of true poetry, inexpressibly pleasing to all who are uncorrupted by the business and the vanities of life, and may therefore prove equally instructive and captivating to younger readers.

It seems to be a tenet universally received among common critics, as certain and indisputable, that images and characters of peaceful and domestic life are not so difficult to be drawn, as pictures of war and fury. I own myself of a quite contrary opinion ; and think the description of Andromache parting

parting with Hector in the *ILIAD*, and the tender circumstances of the child Astyanax starting back from his father's helmet, and clinging to the bosom of his nurse, are as great efforts of the imagination of HOMER, as the dreadful picture of Achilles fighting with the rivers, or dragging the carcass of Hector at his chariot-wheels: the behaviour of HECUBA, when she points to the breast that had suckled her dear HECTOR, is as finely conceived as the most gallant exploits of DIOMEDE and AJAX: the NATURAL is as strong an evidence of true genius, as the SUBLIME. It is in such images the ODYSSEY abounds: the superior utility of which, as they more nearly concern and more strongly affect us, need not be pointed out. Let LONGINUS admire the majesty of Neptune whirling his chariot over the deep, surrounded by sea monsters that gambolled before their king; the description of the dog Argus, creeping to the feet of his master, whom he alone knew in his disguise, and expiring with joy for his return, is so inexpressibly pathetic, that it equals, if not exceeds any of the magnificent and bolder images which that excellent critic hath produced in his treatise on the sublime. He justly commends
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the prayer of Ajax, who when he was surrounded with a thick darkness that prevented the display of his prowess, begs of Jupiter only to remove the clouds that involved him ; “ and then,” says he, “ destroy me if thou wilt in the day light ;” *εν δε φαικαι ολεσσον*. But surely the reflections which ULYSSES makes to Amphinomus, the most virtuous of the suitors, concerning the misery and vanity of man, will be found to deserve equal commendations, if we consider their propriety, solemnity, and truth. Our hero in the disguise of a beggar, had just been spurned at and ridiculed by the rest of the riotous lovers, but is kindly relieved by Amphinomus, whose behaviour is finely contrasted to the brutality of his brethren. Upon which ULYSSES says, “ Hear me, O Amphinomus ! and ponder the words I shall speak unto thee. Of all creatures that breathe or creep upon the earth, the most weak and impotent is man. For he never thinks that evils shall befall him at another season, while the Gods bestow on him strength and happiness. But when the immortal Gods afflict him with adversity, he bears it with unwillingness and repining. Such

“ Such is the mind of the inhabitants of
 “ the earth, that it changes as Jupiter sends
 “ happiness or misery. I once numbered
 “ myself among the happy, and elated with
 “ prosperity and pride, and relying on my
 “ friends, committed many acts of injustice.
 “ But let no man be proud or unjust, but
 “ receive whatever gifts the Gods bestow
 “ on him with humility and silence.” I
 chose to translate this sententious passage
 as literally as possible, to preserve the air of
 its venerable simplicity and striking so-
 lemnity. If we recollect the speaker, and
 the occasion of the speech, we, cannot fail
 of being deeply affected. Can we, therefore,
 forbear giving our assent to the truth of the
 title which ALCIDAMAS, according^o to
 ARISTOTLE in his rhetoric, bestows on the
 ODYSSEY; who calls it “ a beautiful mirror
 “ of human life,” *καλον ανθρωπινην κατοπρον*.

HOMER, in the ILIAD, resembles the
 river Nile, when it descends in a cataract
 that deafens and astonishes the neighbouring
 inhabitants. In the ODYSSEY, he is still
 like the same Nile, when its genial inunda-
 tions gently diffuse fertility and fatness over
 the peaceful plains of Egypt.

N^o 81. TUESDAY, *August* 14, 1753.*Nil desperandum.*

HOR.

Avaunt despair.

I HAVE sometimes heard it disputed in conversation, whether it be more laudable or desirable, that a man should think too highly or too meanly of himself: it is on all hands agreed to be best, that he should think rightly: but since a fallible being will always make some deviations from exact rectitude, it is not wholly useless to enquire towards which side it is safer to decline.

The prejudices of mankind seem to favour him who errs by under-rating his own powers: he is considered as a modest and harmless member of society, not likely to break the peace by competition, to endeavour after such splendor of reputation as may dim the lustre of others: or to interrupt any in the enjoyment of themselves, he is no man's rival, and, therefore, may be every man's friend.

The opinion which a man entertains of himself ought to be distinguished, in order to an accurate discussion of this question, as it relates to persons or to things. To think highly of ourselves

ourselves in comparison with others, to assume by our own authority that precedence which none is willing to grant, must be always invidious and offensive; but to rate our powers high in proportion to things, and imagine ourselves equal to great undertakings, while we leave others in possession of the same abilities, cannot with equal justice provoke censure.

It must be confessed, that self-love may dispose us to decide too hastily in our own favour; but who is hurt by the mistake? If we are incited by this vain opinion to attempt more than we can perform, ours is the labour, and ours is the disgrace.

But he that dares to think well of himself, will not always prove to be mistaken; and the good effects of his confidence will then appear in great attempts and great performances: if he should not fully compleat his design, he will at least advance it so far as to leave an easier task for him that succeeds him; and even though he should wholly fail, he will fail with honour. But from the opposite error, from torpid despondency can come no advantage; it is the frost of the soul which binds up all its powers and congeals life in perpetual sterility. He

that has no hopes of success, will make no attempts ; and where nothing is attempted nothing can be done.

Every man should, therefore, endeavour to maintain in himself a favourable opinion of the powers of the human mind ; which are perhaps in every man, greater than they appear, and might, by diligent cultivation, be exalted to a degree beyond what their possessor presumes to believe. There is scarce any man but has found himself able at the instigation of necessity, to do what in a state of leisure and deliberation he would have concluded impossible ; and some of our species have signalized themselves by such achievements, as prove that there are few things above human hope.

It has been the policy of all nations to preserve, by some public monuments, the memory of those who have served their country by great exploits ; there is the same reason for continuing or reviving the names of those, whose extensive abilities have dignified humanity. An honest emulation may be alike excited ; and the philosopher's curiosity may be inflamed by a catalogue of the works of Boyle or Bacon, as Themistocles was kept awake by the trophies of Miltiades.

Among

Among the favourites of nature that have from time to time appeared in the world, enriched with various endowments and contrarieties of excellence, none seems to have been more exalted above the common rate of humanity than the man known about two centuries ago by the appellation of the ADMIRABLE CRICHTON; of whose history, whatever we may suppress as surpassing credibility, yet we shall, upon incontestible authority, relate enough to rank him among prodigies.

“VIRTUE,” says Virgil, “is better accepted when it comes in a pleasing form:” the person of CRICHTON was eminently beautiful; but his beauty was consistent with such activity and strength, that in fencing he would spring at one bound the length of twenty feet upon his antagonist; and he used the sword in either hand with such force and dexterity, that scarce any one had courage to engage him.

Having studied at St. Andrew’s in Scotland, he went to Paris in his twenty-first year, and affixed on the gate of the college of Navarre, a kind of challenge to the learned of that university, to dispute with him on a certain

certain day : offering to his opponents, whoever they should be, the choice of ten languages, and all the faculties and sciences. On the day appointed three thousand auditors assembled, when four doctors of the church and fifty masters appeared against him : and one of his antagonists confesses, that the doctors were defeated ; that he gave proofs of knowledge above the reach of man ; and that a hundred years passed without food or sleep, would not be sufficient for the attainment of his learning. After a disputation of nine hours he was presented by the president and professors with a diamond and a purse of gold, and dismissed with repeated acclamations.

From Paris he went away to Rome, where he made the same challenge, and had in the presence of the pope and cardinals the same success. Afterwards he contracted at Venice an acquaintance with Aldus Manutius, by whom he was introduced to the learned of that city : then visited Padua, where he engaged in another public disputation, beginning his performance with an extemporal poem in praise of the city and the assembly then present, and concluding with
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an oration equally unpremeditated in commendation of ignorance.

He afterwards published another challenge, in which he declared himself ready to detect the errors of Aristotle and all his commentators, either in the common forms of logic, or in any which his antagonists should propose of a hundred different kinds of verse.

These acquisitions of learning, however stupendous, were not gained at the expence of any pleasure which youth generally indulges, or by the omission of any accomplishment in which it becomes a gentleman to excel: he practised in great perfection the arts of drawing and painting, he was an eminent performer in both vocal and instrumental music, he danced with uncommon gracefulness, and on the day after his disputation at Paris exhibited his skill in horsemanship before the court of France, where at a public match of tilting, he bore away the ring upon his lance fifteen times together.

He excelled likewise in domestic games of less dignity and reputation; and in the interval between his challenge and dispu-

tation at Paris, he spent so much of his time at cards, dice, and tennis, that a lampoon was fixed upon the gate of the Sorbonne, directing those that would see this monster of erudition, to look for him at the tavern.

So extensive was his acquaintance with life and manners, that in an Italian comedy, composed by himself, and exhibited before the court of Mantua, he is said to have personated fifteen different characters; in all which he might succeed without great difficulty, since he had such power of retention, that once hearing an oration of an hour, he would repeat it exactly, and in the recital follow the speaker through all his variety of tone and gesticulation.

Nor was his skill in arms less than in learning, or his courage inferior to his skill: there was a prize-fighter at Mantua, who travelling about the world, according to the barbarous custom of that age, as a general challenger, had defeated the most celebrated masters in many parts of Europe; and in Mantua, where he then resided, had killed three that appeared against him. The duke repented that he had granted him his protection;

tection; when CRICHTON looking on his sanguinary success with indignation, offered to stake fifteen hundred pistoles, and mount the stage against him. The duke, with some reluctance, consented, and on the day fixed the combatants appeared: their weapon seems to have been single rapier, which was then newly introduced in Italy. The prize-fighter advanced with great violence and fierceness, and CRICHTON contented himself calmly to ward his passes, and suffered him to exhaust his vigour by his own fury. CRICHTON then became the assailant: and pressed upon him with such force and agility, that he thrust him thrice through the body, and saw him expire: he then divided the prize he had won among the widows whose husbands had been killed.

The death of this wonderful man I should be willing to conceal, did I not know that every reader will inquire curiously after that fatal hour, which is common to all human beings, however distinguished from each other by nature or by fortune.

The duke of Mantua having received so many proofs of his various merit, made him

tutor to his son Vincentio di Gonzaga, a prince of loose manners and turbulent disposition. On this occasion it was, that he composed the comedy in which he exhibited so many different characters with exact propriety. But his honour was of short continuance; for as he was one night in the time of Carnival rambling about the streets, with his guitar in his hand, he was attacked by six men masked. Neither his courage nor skill in this exigence deserted him; he opposed them with such activity and spirit, that he soon dispersed them, and disarmed their leader, who throwing off his mask, discovered himself to be the prince his pupil. CRICHTON falling on his knees, took his own sword by the point, and presented it to the prince; who immediately seized it, and instigated, as some say, by jealousy, according to others, only by drunken fury and brutal resentment, thrust him through the heart.

Thus was the admirable CRICHTON brought into that state, in which he could excel the meanest of mankind only by a few empty honours paid to his memory: the court of Mantua testified their esteem by a
public

public mourning, the contemporary wits were profuse of their encomiums, and the palaces of Italy were adorned with pictures, representing him on horseback with a lance in one hand and a book in the other.

Nº 82. SATURDAY, *August* 18, 1753.

Nunc scio quid sit AMOR. VIRG.

Now know I what is love.

THOUGH the danger of disappointment is always in proportion to the height of expectation, yet I this day claim the attention of the ladies, and profess to teach an art by which all may obtain what has hitherto been deemed the prerogative of a few; an art by which their predominant passion may be gratified, and their conquests not only extended but secured; “The art of being
“PRETTY.”

But though my subject may interest the ladies, it may, perhaps, offend those profound moralists, who have long since determined, that BEAUTY ought rather to be despised than desired; that, like strength, it is a mere natural excellence, the effect of causes wholly out of our power, and not in-

tended either as the pledge of happiness or the distinction of merit.

To these gentlemen I shall remark, that beauty is among those qualities, which no effort of human wit could ever bring into contempt : it is, therefore, to be wished at least, that beauty was in some degree dependent upon SENTIMENT and MANNERS, that so high a privilege might not be possessed by the unworthy, and that human reason might no longer suffer the mortification of those who are compelled to adore an idol, which differs from a stone or a log only by the skill of the artificer : and if they cannot themselves behold beauty with indifference, they must surely approve an attempt to shew that it merits their regard.

I shall, however, principally consider that species of beauty which is expressed in the countenance ; for this alone is peculiar to human beings, and is not less complicated than their nature. In the countenance there are but two requisites to perfect BEAUTY, which are wholly produced by external causes, colour and proportion : and it will appear, that even in common estimation these are not the chief, but that though there

there may be beauty without them, yet there cannot be beauty without something more.

The finest features, ranged in the most exact symmetry, and heightened by the most blooming complexion, must be animated before they can strike; and when they are animated, will generally excite the same passions which they express. If they are fixed in the dead calm of insensibility, they will be examined without emotion; and if they do not express kindness, they will be beheld without love. Looks of contempt, disdain, or malevolence, will be reflected, as from a mirror, by every countenance on which they are turned; and if a wanton aspect excites desire, it is but like that of a savage for his prey, which cannot be gratified without the destruction of its object.

Among particular graces the dimple has always been allowed the pre-eminence, and the reason is evident; dimples are produced by a smile, and a smile, is an expression of complacency: so the contraction of the brows into a frown, as it is an indication of a contrary temper, has always been deemed a capital defect.

The lover is generally at a loss to define the beauty, by which his passion was suddenly and irresistibly determined to a particular object ; but this could never happen, if it depended upon any known rule of proportion, upon the shape or disposition of the features, or the colour of the skin : he tells you, that it is something which he cannot fully express, something not fixed in any part, but diffused over the whole ; he calls it a sweetness, a softness, a placid sensibility, or gives it some other appellation which connects beauty with SENTIMENT, and expresses a charm which is not peculiar to any set of features, but is perhaps possible to all.

This beauty, however, does not always consist in smiles, but varies as expressions of meekness and kindness vary with their objects ; it is extremely forcible in the silent complaint of patient sufferance, the tender solicitude of friendship, and the glow of filial obedience ; and in tears whether of joy, of pity, or of grief, it is almost irresistible.

This is the charm which captivates without the aid of nature, and without which
her

her utmost bounty is ineffectual. But it cannot be assumed as a mask to conceal insensibility or malevolence; it must be the genuine effect of corresponding sentiments, or it will impress upon the countenance a new and more disgusted deformity, AFFECTATION; it will produce the grin, the simper, the stare, the languish, the pout, and innumerable other grimaces, that render folly ridiculous, and change pity to contempt. By some, indeed, this species of hypocrisy has been practised with such skill as to deceive superficial observers, though it can deceive even these but for a moment. Looks which do not correspond with the heart, cannot be assumed without labour, nor continued without pain; the motive to relinquish them must, therefore, soon preponderate, and the aspect and apparel of the visit will be laid by together; the smiles and the languishments of art will vanish, and the fierceness of rage, or the gloom of discontent, will either obscure or destroy all the elegance of symmetry and complexion.

The artificial aspect is, indeed, as wretched a substitute for the expression of sentiment,

ment, as the smear of paint for the blushes of health : it is not only equally transient, and equally liable to detection ; but as paint leaves the countenance yet more withered and ghastly, the passions burst out with more violence after restraint, the features become more distorted, and excite more determined aversion.

Beauty, therefore, depends principally upon the mind, and consequently may be influenced by education. It has been remarked, that the predominant passion may generally be discovered in the countenance ; because the muscles by which it is expressed, being almost perpetually contracted, lose their tone and never totally relax ; so that the expression remains when the passion is suspended : thus an angry, a disdainful, a subtle, and a suspicious temper, is displayed in characters that are almost universally understood. It is equally true of the pleasing and the softer passions, that they leave their signatures upon the countenance when they cease to act : the prevalence of these passions, therefore, produces a mechanical effect upon the aspect, and gives a turn and cast to the features which make a more favourable and forcible

forcible impression upon the mind of others, than any charm produced by mere external causes.

Neither does the beauty which depends upon temper and sentiment, equally endanger the possessor; "It is" to use an eastern metaphor, like "the towers of a city, not "only an ornament, but a defence:" if it excites desire, it at once controuls and refines it; it represses with awe, it softens with delicacy, and it wins to imitation. The love of reason and of virtue is mingled with the love of beauty; because this beauty is little more than the emanation of intellectual excellence, which is not an object of corporeal appetite. As it excites a purer passion it also more forcibly engages to fidelity: every man finds himself more powerfully restrained from giving pain to goodness than to beauty; and every look of a countenance in which they are blended, in which beauty is the expression of goodness, is a silent reproach of the first irregular wish; and the purpose immediately appears to be dissingenuous and cruel, by which the tender hope of ineffable affection would be disappointed, the placid confidence of unsuspecting

suspecting simplicity abused, and the peace even of virtue endangered by the most fordid infidelity, and the breach of the strongest obligations.

But the hope of the hypocrite must perish. When the factitious beauty has laid by her smiles; when the lustre of her eyes and the bloom of her cheeks have lost their influence with their novelty; what remains but a tyrant divested of power, who will never be seen without a mixture of indignation and disdain? The only desire which this object could gratify, will be transferred to another not only without reluctance, but with triumph. As resentment will succeed to disappointment, a desire to mortify will succeed to a desire to please; and the husband may be urged to solicit a mistress, merely by a remembrance of the beauty of his wife, which lasted only till she was known.

Let it therefore be remembered, that none can be disciples of the GRACES, but in the school of VIRTUE; and that those who wish to be LOVELY, must learn early to be GOOD.

N^o 83. TUESDAY, *August* 21, 1753.

*Illic enim debet toto animo a poetâ in dissolutionem nodi;
agi; eaque præcipua fabulæ pars est quæ requirit pluri-
mum diligentia.*

CICERO.

The poet ought to exert his whole strength and spirit in the solution of his plot; which is the principal part of the fable, and requires the utmost diligence and care.

OF the three only perfect EPOPEES, which, in the compass of so many ages, human wit has been able to produce, the conduct and constitution of the ODYSSEY seem to be the most artificial and judicious.

ARISTOTLE observes, that there are two kinds of fables, the simple and the complex. A fable in tragic or epic poetry, is denominated simple, when the events it contains follow each other in a continued and unbroken tenour, without a RECOGNITION or discovery, and without a PERIPETIE or unexpected change of fortune. A fable is called complex, when it contains both a discovery and a peripetie. And this great critic, whose knowledge of human nature was consummate, determines, that fables of the latter species far excel those of the former, because they
more

more deeply interest and more irresistibly move the reader, by adding surprize and astonishment to every other passion which they excite.

The philosopher, agreeably to this observation, prefers the OEDIPUS of SOPHOCLES, and the IPHIGENIA in Tauris and ALCESTES of EURIPIDES, to the AJAX, PHILOCTETES, and MEDEA of the same writers, and to the PROMETHEUS of ESCHYLUS: because these last are all uncomplicated fables; that is, the evils and misfortunes that befall the personages represented in these dramas, are unchangeably continued from the beginning to the end of each piece. For the same reasons, the ATHALIAH of RACINE, and the MEROPE's of MAFFEI and VOLTAIRE, are beyond comparison the most affecting stories that have been handled by any modern tragic writer: the discoveries, that JOAS is the king of Israel, and that EGISTRUS is the son of MEROPE, who had just ordered him to be murdered, are so unexpected, but yet so probable, that they may justly be esteemed very great efforts of judgment and genius, and contribute to place these two poems at the head of dramatic compositions.

The fable of the ODYSSEY being complex, and containing a discovery and a change in the fortune of its hero, is upon this single consideration, exclusive of its other beauties, if we follow the principles of ARISTOTLE, much superior to the fables of the ILIAD and the ÆNEID, which are both simple and unadorned with a peripetie or recognition. The naked story of this poem, stript of all its ornaments, and of the very names of the characters, is exhibited by ARISTOTLE in the following passage, which is almost literally translated.

“ A man is for several years absent from
 “ his home; Neptune continually watches and
 “ persecutes him; his retinue being destroyed,
 “ he remains alone: but while his estate is waft-
 “ ing by the suitors of his wife, and his son’s
 “ life is plotted against, he himself suddenly
 “ arrives after many storms at sea, discovers
 “ himself to some of his friends, falls on the
 “ suitors, establishes himself in safety, and de-
 “ stroys his enemies. This is what is essential
 “ to the fable; the episodes make up the rest.”

From these observations on the nature of the fable of the ODYSSEY in general, we may proceed to consider it more minutely.

The

The two chief parts of every epic fable are its INTRIGUE or PLOT, and its SOLUTION or UNRAVELLING. The intrigue is formed by a complication of different interests, which keep the mind of the reader in a pleasing suspense, and fill him with anxious wishes to see the obstacles that oppose the designs of the hero happily removed. The solution consists in removing these difficulties, in satisfying the curiosity of the reader by the completion of the intended action, and in leaving his mind in perfect repose, without expectation of any farther event. Both of these should arise naturally and easily out of the very essence and subject of the poem itself, should not be deduced from circumstances foreign and extrinsical, should be at the same time probable yet wonderful.

The anger of Neptune, who resented the punishment which ULYSSES had inflicted on his son Polypheme, induces him to prevent the return of the hero to Ithaca, by driving him from country to country by violent tempests; and from this indignation of Neptune is formed the intrigue of the ODYSSEY in the first part of the poem; that is, in plain prose, “ what more natu-

“ ral

“ral and usual obstacle do they encounter
 “who take long voyages, than the violence
 “of winds and storms?” The plot of the
 second part of the poem is founded on cir-
 cumstances equally probable and natural;
 on the unavoidable effects of the long ab-
 sence of a master, whose return was despair-
 ed of, the insolence of his servants, the dan-
 gers to which his wife and his son were ex-
 posed, the ruin of his estate, and the disor-
 der of his kingdom.

The address and art of HOMER in the
 gradual solution of this plot, by the most
 probable and easy expedients, are equally
 worthy our admiration and applause. ULYS-
 SES is driven by a tempest to the island of
 the Phæacians, where he is generously and
 hospitably received. During a banquet
 which Alcinous the king has prepared for
 him, the poet most artfully contrives that
 the bard Demodocus should sing the de-
 struction of Troy. At the recital of his past
 labours, and at hearing the names of his
 old companions, from whom he was now
 separated, our hero could no longer contain
 himself, but burst into tears and weeps bit-
 terly. The curiosity of Alcinous being ex-

cited by this unaccountable sorrow, he intreats ULYSSES to discover who he is, and what he has suffered; which request furnishes a most proper and probable occasion to the hero to relate a long series of adventures in the four following books, an occasion much more natural than that which induces Æneas to communicate his history to Dido. By this judicious conduct, HOMER taught his successors the artful manner of entering abruptly into the midst of the action; and of making the reader acquainted with the previous circumstances by a narrative from the hero. The Phæacians, a people fond of strange and amusing tales, resolved to fit out a ship for the distressed hero, as a reward for the entertainment he has given them. When he arrives in Ithaca, his absence, his age, and his travels, render him totally unknown to all but his faithful dog Argus: he then puts on a disguise, that he may be the better enabled to surprize and to punish the riotous suitors, and to re-establish the tranquillity of his kingdom. The reader thinks that ULYSSES is frequently on the point of being discovered, particularly when he engages in the shooting-match with

with the suitors, and when he enters into conversation with Penelope in the nineteenth book, and personates a fictitious character ; but he is still judiciously disappointed, and the suspense is kept up as long as possible. And at last when his nurse EURICLEA discovers him by the scar in his thigh, it is a circumstance so simple and so natural, that notwithstanding ARISTOTLE places these recognitions, by SIGNS and TOKENS, below those that are effected by REASONING, as in the Oedipus and Iphigenia ; yet ought it ever to be remembered, that HOMER was the original from whom this striking method of unravelling a fable, by a discovery and a peripetie, was manifestly borrowed. The doubts and fears of Penelope lest ULYSSES was not in reality her husband, and the tenderness and endearments that ensue upon her conviction that he is, render the surprize and satisfaction of the reader compleat.

Upon the whole, the ODYSSEY is a poem that exhibits the finest lessons of morality, the most entertaining variety of scenes and events, the most lively and natural pictures of civil and domestic life, the truest representation of the manners and customs of an-

tiquity, and the justest pattern of a legitimate EPOPEE: and is, therefore, peculiarly useful to those, who are animated by the noble ambition of adorning humanity by living or by writing well.

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N^o 84. SATURDAY, *August 25, 1753.*

——— *Tolle periculum,
Jam vaga profiliet frænis natura remotis.* HOR.

But take the danger and the shame away,
And vagran nature bounds upont her prey. FRANCIS.

TO the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

IT has been observed, I think by Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, and after him by almost every other writer, that England affords a greater variety of characters than the rest of the world. This is ascribed to the liberty prevailing amongst us, which gives every man the privilege of being wise or foolish his own way, and preserves him from the necessity of hypocrisy or the servility of imitation.

That the position itself is true, I am not completely satisfied. To be nearly acquainted with the people of different countries can happen to very few; and in life, as in every thing else beheld at a distance, there appears an even uniformity: the petty discriminations which diversify the natural character, are not discoverable but by a close inspection; we, therefore, find them most at home, because there we have most opportunities of remarking them. Much less am I convinced, that this peculiar diversification if it be real, is the consequence of peculiar liberty; for where is the government to be found that superintends individuals with so much vigilance, as not to leave their private conduct without restraint? Can it enter into a reasonable mind to imagine that men of every other nation are not equally masters of their own time or houses with ourselves, and equally at liberty to be parsimonious or profuse, frolic or sullen, abstinent or luxurious? Liberty is certainly necessary to the full play of predominant humours, but such liberty is to be found alike under the government of the many or the few in monarchies or in commonwealths.

How readily the predominant passion snatches an interval of liberty, and how fast it expands itself, when the weight of restraint is taken away, I had lately an opportunity to discover, as I took a journey into the country in a stage coach ; which, as every journey is a kind of adventure, may be very properly related to you, though I can display no such extraordinary assembly as CERVANTES has collected at DON QUIXOTE'S inn.

In a stage-coach the passengers are for the most part wholly unknown to one another, and without expectation of ever meeting again when their journey is at an end ; one should, therefore, imagine, that it was of little importance to any of them what conjectures the rest should form concerning him. Yet so it is, that as all think themselves secure from detection, all assume that character of which they are most desirous, and on no occasion is the general ambition of superiority more apparently indulged.

On the day of our departure, in the twilight of the morning, I ascended the vehicle with three men and two women, my fellow-travellers. It was easy to observe the affected elevation of mien with which every one entered,

tered, and the supercilious civility with which they paid their compliments to each other. When the first ceremony was dispatched, we sat silent for a long time, all employed in collecting importance into our faces, and endeavouring to strike reverence and submission into our companions.

It is always observable that silence propagates itself, and that the longer talk has been suspended the more difficult it is to find any thing to say. We began now to wish for conversation; but no one seemed inclined to descend from his dignity, or first propose a topic of discourse. At last a corpulent gentleman who had equipped himself for this expedition with a scarlet furtout and a large hat with a broad lace, drew out his watch, looked on it in silence, and then held it dangling at his finger. This was, I suppose, understood by all the company as an invitation to ask the time of the day, but nobody appeared to heed his overture; and his desire to be talking so far overcame his resentment, that he let us know of his own accord that it was past five, and that in two hours we should be at breakfast.

His condescension was thrown away; we continued all obdurate; the ladies held up their heads; I amused myself with watching their behaviour; and of the other two one seemed to employ himself in counting the trees as we drove by them, the other drew his hat over his eyes and counterfeited a slumber. The man of benevolence to shew that he was not depressed by our neglect hummed a tune and beat time upon his snuff box.

Thus universally displeased with one another, and not much delighted with ourselves, we came at last to the little inn appointed for our repast; and all began at once to recompence themselves for the constraint of silence, by innumerable questions and orders to the people that attended us. At last, what every one had called for was got, or declared impossible to be got at that time, and we were persuaded to sit round the same table; when the gentleman in the red furtout looked again upon his watch, told us that we had half an hour to spare, but he was sorry to see so little merriment among us; that all fellow-travellers were for the time upon the level, and that it was always his way to make himself one of the company, "I remember," says he,

"it

“ it was on just such a morning as this,
 “ that I and my lord Mumble and the duke of
 “ Tenterden were out upon a ramble : we
 “ called at a little house as it might be this;
 “ and my landlady, I warrant you not sus-
 “ pecting to whom she was talking, was so
 “ jocular and facetious, and made so many
 “ merry answers to our questions, that we
 “ were all ready to burst with laughter. At
 “ last the good woman happening to overhear
 “ me whisper the duke and call him by his
 “ title, was so surpris’d and confounded, that
 “ we could scarcely get a word from her ; and
 “ the duke never met me from that day to this,
 “ but he talks of the little house, and quar-
 “ rels with me for terrifying the landlady.”

He had scarcely time to congratulate
 himself on the veneration which this narra-
 tive must have procured him from the com-
 pany, when one of the ladies having reached
 out for a plate on a distant part of the table,
 began to remark “ the inconveniences of
 “ travelling, and the difficulty which they
 “ who never sat at home without a great
 “ number of attendants found in performing
 “ for themselves such offices as the road
 “ required ; but that people of quality often
 travelled

“ travelled in disguise, and might be generally known from the vulgar by their condescension to poor inn-keepers, and the allowance which they made for any defect in their entertainment; that for her part, while people were civil and meant well, it was never her custom to find fault, for one was not to expect upon a journey all that one enjoyed at one's own house.”

A general emulation seemed now to be excited. One of the men, who had hitherto said nothing, called for the last news-paper; and having perused it a while with deep pensiveness, “ It is impossible,” says he, “ for any man to guess how to act with regard to the stocks: last week it was the general opinion that they would fall: and I sold out twenty thousand pounds in order to a purchase: they have now risen unexpectedly: and I make no doubt but at my return to London I shall risk thirty thousand pounds among them again.”

A young man, who had hitherto distinguished himself only by the vivacity of his looks, and a frequent diversion of his eyes from one object to another, upon this closed

fed his snuff-box, and told us, that " he
 " had a hundred times talked with the chan-
 " cellor and the judges on the subject of the
 " stocks ; that for his part he did not pretend
 " to be well acquainted with the principles
 " on which they were established, but had
 " always heard them reckoned pernicious to
 " trade, uncertain in their produce, and
 " unsolid in their foundation ; and that he
 " had been advised by three judges, his most
 " intimate friends, never to venture his mo-
 " ney in the funds, but to put it out upon
 " land-security, till he could light upon an
 " estate in his own country."

It might be expected, that upon these
 glimpses of latent dignity, we should all
 have began to look round us with veneration ;
 and have behaved like the princes of romance,
 when the enchantment that disguises them
 is dissolved, and they discover the dignity of
 each other : yet it happened that none of
 these hints made much impression on the
 company ; every one was apparently sus-
 pected of endeavouring to impose false ap-
 pearances upon the rest ; all continued their
 haughtiness in hopes to enforce their claims ;
 and all grew every hour more sullen, because
 they

they found their representations of themselves without effect.

Thus we travelled on four days with malevolence perpetually increasing, and without any endeavour but to outvie each other in superciliousness and neglect; and when any two of us could separate ourselves for a moment, we vented our indignation at the fau-
ciness of the rest.

At length the journey was at an end; and time and chance, that strip off all disguises, have discovered, that the intimate of lords and dukes is a nobleman's butler, who has furnished a shop with the money he has saved; the man who deals so largely in the funds, is a clerk of a broker in 'Change alley; the lady who so carefully concealed her quality, keeps a cook-shop behind the Exchange; and the young man, who is so happy in the friendship of the judges, engrosses and transcribes for bread in a garret of the Temple. Of one of the women only I could make no disadvantageous detection, because she had assumed no character, but accommodated herself to the scene before her, without any struggle for distinction or superiority.

I could

I could not forbear to reflect on the folly of practising a fraud, which, as the event shewed, had been already practised too often to succeed, and by the success of which no advantage could have been obtained; of assuming a character, which was to end with the day; and of claiming upon false pretences honours which must perish with the breath that paid them.

BUT, Mr. ADVENTURER, let not those who laugh at me and my companions, think this folly confined to a stage coach. Every man in the journey of life takes the same advantage of the ignorance of his fellow travellers, disguises himself in counterfeited merit, and hears those praises with complacency which his conscience reproaches him for accepting. Every man deceives himself, while he thinks he is deceiving others; and forgets that the time is at hand when every illusion shall cease, when fictitious excellence shall be torn away, and All must be shown to All in their real estate.

T I am, SIR,

Your humble servant,

VIATOR.

N^o 85. TUESDAY, *August 28, 1753.*

*Qui cupit optatam cursu contingere metam,
Multa tulit fecitque puer.* HOR.

The youth who hopes th' Olympic prize to gain,
All arts must try, and every toil sustain.

FRANCIS.

IT is observed by BACON, that “reading
“ makes a full man, conversation a ready
“ man, and writing an exact man.”

As BACON attained to degrees of knowledge scarcely ever reached by any other man, the directions which he gives for study have certainly a just claim to our regard; for who can teach an art with so great authority, as he that has practised it with undisputed success.

Under the protection of so great a name, I shall, therefore, venture to inculcate to my ingenious contemporaries, the necessity of reading, the fitness of consulting other understandings than their own, and of considering the sentiments and opinions of those who, however neglected in the present age, had in their own times, and many of them a long time afterwards,

afterwards, such reputation for knowledge and accuteness, as will scarcely ever be attained by those that despise them.

An opinion has of late been, I know not how, propagated among us, that libraries are filled only with useless lumber; that men of parts stand in need of no assistance; and that to spend life in poring upon books, is only to imbibe prejudices, to obstruct and embarrass the powers of nature, to cultivate memory at the expence of judgement, and to bury reason under a chaos of indigested learning.

Such is the talk of many who think themselves wise, and of some who are thought wise by others; of whom part probably believe their own tenets, and part may be justly suspected of endeavouring to shelter their ignorance in multitudes, and of wishing to destroy that reputation which they have no hopes to share. It will, I believe, be found invariably true, that learning was never decried by any learned man; and what credit can be given to those, who venture to condemn that which they do not know?

If reason has the power ascribed to it by its advocates, if so much is to be discovered by attention and meditation, it is hard to believe,

lieve, that so many millions, equally participating of the bounties of nature with ourselves, have been for ages upon ages meditating in vain : if the wits of the present time expect the regard of posterity, which will then inherit the reason which is now thought superior to instruction, surely, they may allow themselves to be instructed by the reason of former generations. When, therefore, an author declares, that he has been able to learn nothing from the writings of his predecessors, and such a declaration has been lately made, nothing but a degree of arrogance unpardonable in the greatest human understanding, can hinder him from perceiving that he is raising prejudices against his own performance ; for with what hopes of success can he attempt that in which greater abilities have hitherto miscarried ? or with what peculiar force does he suppose himself invigorated, that difficulties hitherto invincible should give way before him ?

Of those whom Providence has qualified to make any additions to human knowledge, the number is extremely small ; and what can be added by each single mind, even of this superior class, is very little : the greatest part
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of mankind must owe all their knowledge, and all must owe far the larger part of it, to the information of others. To understand the works of celebrated authors, to comprehend their systems, and retain their reasonings, is a task more than equal to common intellects ; and he is by no means to be accounted useless or idle, who has stored his mind with acquired knowledge, and can detail it occasionally to others who have less leisure or weaker abilities.

PERSIUS has justly observed, that knowledge is nothing to him who is not known by others to possess it: to the scholar himself it is nothing with respect either to honour or advantage, for the world cannot reward those qualities which are concealed from it ; with respect to others it is nothing, because it affords no help to ignorance or error.

It is with justice, therefore, that in an accomplished character, HORACE unites just sentiments with the power of expressing them ; and he that has once accumulated learning, is next to consider, how he shall most widely diffuse and most agreeably impart it.

A ready man is made by conversation. He that buries himself among his manuscripts "besprent," as Pope expresses it, "with learned dust," and wears out his days and nights in perpetual research and solitary meditation, is too apt to lose in his elocution what he adds to his wisdom; and when he comes into the world, to appear overloaded with his own notions, like a man armed with weapons which he cannot wield. He has no facility of inculcating his speculations, of adapting himself to the various degrees of intellect which the accidents of conversation will present; but will talk to most unintelligibly, and to all unpleasantly.

I was once present at the lectures of a profound philosopher, a man really skilled in the science which he professed, who having occasion to explain the terms *OPACUM* and *PELLUCIDUM*, told us, after some hesitation, that *OPACUM* was, as one might say, *OPAKE*, and that *PELLUCIDUM* signified *PELLUCID*. Such was the dexterity with which this learned reader facilitated to his auditors the intricacies of science; and so true is it that a man may know what he cannot teach.

BOERHAAVE

BOERHAAVE complains, that the writers who have treated of chemistry before him, are useless to the greater part of students, because they presuppose their readers to have such degrees of skill as are not often to be found. Into the same error are all men apt to fall, who have familiarized any subject to themselves in solitude : they discourse, as if they thought every other man had been employed in the same inquiries ; and expect that short hints and obscure illusions will produce in others the same train of ideas which they excite in themselves.

Nor is this the only inconvenience which the man of study suffers from a reclusive life, when he meets with an opinion that pleases him, he catches it up with eagerness ; looks only after such arguments as tend to his confirmation, or spares himself the trouble of discussion, and adopts it with very little proof, indulges it long without suspicion, and in time unites it to the general body of his knowledge, and treasures it up among incontestible truths : but when he comes into the world among men who, arguing upon dissimilar principles, have been led to different conclusions, and being placed in various situations,

view the same object on many sides ; he finds his darling position attacked, and himself in no condition to defend it : having thought always in one train, he is in the state of a man who having fenced always with the same master, is perplexed and amazed by a new posture of his antagonist ; he is entangled in unexpected difficulties, he is harassed by sudden objections, he is unprovided with solutions or replies, his surprize impedes his natural powers of reasoning, his thoughts are scattered and confounded, and he gratifies the pride of airy petulance with an easy victory.

It is difficult to imagine, with what obstinacy truths which one mind perceives almost by intuition, will be rejected by another ; and how many artifices must be practised, to procure admiffion for the most evident propositions into understandings frightened by their novelty, or hardened against them by accidental prejudice ; it can scarcely be conceived, how frequently, in these extemporaneous controversies, the dull will be subtle and the acute absurd ; how often stupidity will elude the force of argument, by involving itself in its own gloom ; and mistaken

ken ingenuity will weave artful fallacies, which reason can scarcely find means to disentangle.

In these encounters the learning of the re-
cluse usually fails him: nothing but long habit
and frequent experiments can confer the power
of changing a position into various forms,
presenting it in different points of view,
connecting it with known and granted truths,
fortifying it with intelligible arguments, and
illustrating it by apt similitudes; and he,
therefore, that has collected his knowledge
in solitude, must learn its application by
mixing with mankind.

But while the various opportunities of con-
versation invite us to try every mode of argu-
ment, and every art of recommending our
sentiments, we are frequently betrayed to the
use of such as are not in themselves strictly
defensible: a man heated in talk, and eager
of victory, takes advantage of the mistakes or
ignorance of his adversary, lays hold of con-
cessions to which he knows he has no right,
and urges proofs likely to prevail on his op-
ponent, though he knows himself that they
have no force: thus the severity of reason is
relaxed, many topics are accumulated, but

without just arrangement or distinction ; we learn to satisfy ourselves with such ratiocination as silences others ; and seldom recal to a close examination, that discourse which has gratified our vanity with victory and applause.

Some caution, therefore, must be used, lest copiousness and facility be made less valuable by inaccuracy and confusion. To fix the thoughts by writing, and subject them to frequent examination and review, is the best method of enabling the mind to detect its own sophisms : and keep it on guard against the fallacies which it practises on others : in conversation we naturally diffuse our thoughts, and in writing we contract them ; method is the excellence of writing, and unconstraint the grace of conversation.

To read, write, and converse in due proportions, is, therefore, the business of a man of letters. For all these there is not often equal opportunity ; excellence, therefore, is not often attainable ; and most men fail in one or other of the ends proposed, and are full without readiness, or ready without exactness. Some deficiency must be forgiven all, because all are men ; and more must be allowed to pass uncensured in the greater part of the world, because

because none can confer upon himself abilities, and few have the choice of situations proper for the improvement of those which nature has bestowed : it is, however, reasonable, to have PERFECTION in our eye ; that we may always advance towards it though we know it never can be reached,

T

Nº 86. SATURDAY, *September 1, 1753.*

Concubitu prohibere vago.——

HOR.

The wandering wish of lawless love suppress.

FRANCIS.

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

TO indulge that restless impatience, which every man feels to relate incidents by which the passions have been greatly affected, and communicate ideas that have been forcibly impressed, I have given you some account of my life, which without further apology or introduction, may, perhaps, be favourably received in an ADVENTURER.

B b 4

My

My mother died when I was very young ; and my father, who was a naval commander, and had, therefore, no opportunity to superintend my conduct, placed me at a grammar school, and afterwards removed me to the university. At school the number of boys was so great, that to regulate our morals was impossible ; and at the university even my learning contributed to the dissoluteness of my manners. As I was an only child, my father had always allowed me more money than I knew how to lay out, otherwise than in the gratification of my vices : I had sometimes, indeed, been restrained by a general sense of right and wrong ; but I now opposed the remonstrances of conscience by the cavils of sophistry ; and having learned of some celebrated philosophers, as well ancient as modern, to prove that nothing is good but pleasure, I became a rake upon principle.

My father died in the same year with queen Anne, a few months before I became of age, and left me a very considerable fortune in the funds. I immediately quitted the university and came to London, which I considered as the great mart of pleasure ;
and

and as I could afford to deal largely, I wisely determined not to endanger my capital. I projected a scheme of life that was most agreeable to my temper, which was rather sedate than volatile, and regulated my expences with the œconomy of a philosopher. I found that my favourite appetites might be gratified with greater convenience and less scandal, in proportion as my life was more private: instead, therefore, of incumbering myself with a family, I took the first floor of a house which was let into lodgings, hired one servant, and kept a brace of geldings at a livery stable. I constantly frequented the theatres, and found my principles confirmed by almost every piece that was represented, particularly my resolution never to marry. In comedy, indeed, the action terminated in marriage; but it was generally the marriage of a rake, who gave up his liberty with reluctance, as the only expedient to recover a fortune; and the husband and wife of the drama were wretches whose example justified this reluctance, and appeared to be exhibited for no other purpose than to warn mankind, that whatever may be presumed by those
whom

whom indigence has made desperate, to marry is to forfeit the quiet, independence and felicity of life.

In this course I had continued twenty years, without having impaired my constitution, lessened my fortune, or incumbered myself with an illegitimate offspring; when a girl about eighteen, just arrived from the country, was hired as a chambermaid by the person who kept the house in which I lodged: the native beauty of health and simplicity in this young creature, had such an effect upon my imagination, that I practised every art to debauch her, and at length succeeded.

I found it convenient for her to continue in the house, and, therefore, made no proposal of removing her into lodgings; but after a few months she found herself with child, a discovery which interrupted the indolence of my sensuality, and made me repent my indiscretion: however, as I would not incur my own censure by ingratitude or inhumanity, I provided her a lodging and attendants, and she was at length delivered of a daughter: The child I regarded as a new incumbrance; for tho' I did not consider myself as under parental

or

or conjugal obligations, yet I could not think myself at liberty wholly to abandon either the mother or the infant. To the mother, indeed, I had still some degree of inclination ; though I should have been heartily content never to have seen her again, if I could at once have been freed from any farther trouble about her ; but as something was to be done, I was willing to keep her within my reach, at least till she could be subservient to my pleasure no longer : the child, however, I would have sent away ; but she intreated me to let her suckle it, with an importunity which I could not resist. After much thinking, I placed her in a little shop in the suburbs, which I furnished, at the expence of about twenty pounds, with chandlery ware, commodities of which she had some knowledge, as her father was a petty shopkeeper in the country : she reported that her husband had been killed in an engagement at sea, and that his pay, which she had been impowered to receive by his will, had purchased her stock. I now thought I had discharged every obligation, as I had enabled her to subsist, at least as well as she could have done by her labour

labour in the station in which I found her ; and as often as I had an inclination to see her, I sent for her to a bagnio.

But these interviews did not produce the pleasure which I expected : her affection for me was too tender and delicate ; she often wept in spite of all her efforts against it ; and could not forbear telling me stories of her little girl with the fond prolixity of a mother, when I wished to regard her only as a mistress. These incidents at once touched me with compunction, and quenched the appetite which I had intended to gratify : my visits, therefore, became less frequent : but she never sent after me when I was absent, nor reproached me, otherwise than by tears of tenderness when she saw me again.

After the first year I wholly neglected her ; and having heard nothing of her during the winter, I went to spend the summer in the country. When I returned, I was prompted rather by curiosity than desire to make some inquiry after her ; and soon learnt that she had died some months before of the small-pox, that the goods had been seized for rent, and the child taken by the parish. At this

account, so sudden and unexpected, I was sensibly touched; and at first conceived a design to rescue the child from the hands of a parish nurse, and make some little provision for it when it should be grown up: but this was delayed from day to day, such was the supineness of my disposition, till the event was remembered with less and less sensibility; and at length I congratulated myself upon my deliverance from an engagement which I had always considered as resembling in some degree the shackles of matrimony. I resolved to incur the same embarrassment no more, and contented myself with strolling from one prostitute to another, of whom I had seen many generations perish; and the new faces which I once sought among the masks in the pit, I found with less trouble at Cuper's, Vauxhall, Ranelagh, and innumerable other places of public entertainment, which have appeared during the last twenty years of my life.

A few weeks ago I celebrated my sixtieth birth-day with some friends at a tavern; and as I was returning to my lodgings, I saw a hackney coach stop at the door of a house which I knew to be of ill repute,
though

though it was private and of the first class. Just as I came up, a girl stepped out of it, who appeared, by the imperfect glimpse I caught of her as she passed, to be very young, and extremely beautiful. As I was warm with wine, I followed her in without hesitation, and was delighted to find her equally charming upon a nearer view. I detained the coach, and proposed that we should go to Haddock's : she hesitated with some appearance of unwillingness and confusion, but at length consented : she soon became more free, and I was not less pleased with her conversation than her person : I observed that she had a softness and modesty in her manner, which is quickly worn off by habitual prostitution.

We had drank a bottle of French wine, and were preparing to go to bed, when, to my unspeakable confusion and astonishment, I discovered a mark by which I knew her to be my child : For I remembered, that the poor girl, whom I so cruelly seduced and neglected, had once told me with tears in her eyes, that she had imprinted the two letters of my name under her little NANCY's left breast, which, perhaps, would be the

only memorial she would ever have of a father. I was instantly struck with a sense of guilt with which I had not been familiar, and, therefore, felt all its force. The poor wretch, whom I was about to hire for the gratification of a brutal appetite, perceived my disorder with surprise and concern: she enquired with an officious sollicitude, what sudden illness had seized me; she took my hand, pressed it, and looked eagerly in my face, still inquisitive what could be done to relieve me. I remained some time torpid: but was soon roused by the reflection, that I was receiving the caresses of my child, whom I had abandoned to the lowest infamy, to be the slave of drunkenness and lust, and whom I had led to the brink of incest. I suddenly started up; first held her at a distance; then catching her in my arms, strove to speak, but burst into tears. I saw that she was confounded and terrified; and as soon as I could recover my speech, I put an end to her doubts by revealing the secret.

It is impossible to express the effect it had upon her: she stood motionless a few minutes; then clasped her hands together, and looked up in an agony, which not to have
seen

seen is not to conceive. The tears at length started from her eyes; she recollected herself, called me father, threw herself upon her knees, embracing mine, and plunging a new dagger in my heart, by asking my blessing.

We sat up together the remainder of the night, which I spent in listening to a story that I may, perhaps, hereafter communicate; and the next day I took lodgings for her about six miles from town. I visit her every day with emotions to which my heart has till now been a stranger, and which are every day more frequent and more strong. I proposed to retire with her into some remote part of the country, and to atone for the past by the future: but, alas! of the future a few years only can remain; and of the past not a moment can return. What atonement can I make to those, upon whose daughters I have contributed to perpetuate that calamity, from which by miracle I have rescued my own! How can I bear the reflection, that though for my own child I had hitherto expressed less kindness than brutes for their young; yet, perhaps, every other whom I either hired or seduced to prostitution, had been gazed at in the ardor of parental affection,

tion, till tears have started to the eye ; had been caught to the bosom with transport, in the prattling simplicity of infancy ; had been watched in sickness with anxiety that suspended sleep ; had been fed by the toil of industrious poverty, and reared to maturity with hope and fear. What a monster is he, by whom these fears are verified, and this hope deceived ! And yet, so dreadful is the force of habitual guilt, I sometimes regret the restraint which is come upon me ; I wish to sink again into the slumber from which I have been roused, and to repeat the crimes which I abhor. My heart is this moment bursting for utterance : but I want words.

Farewell.

AGAMUS.

N^o 87. TUESDAY, September 4, 1753.

*Iracundior est paulò ; minùs aptus acutis
Naribus horum hominum ; rideri possit, eo quòd
Rusticiùs tonso toga defluit, & malè laxus
In pede calceus hæret :—at ingeniem ingens
Inculto latet hoc sub corpore——* HOR.

Your friend is passionate ; perhaps unfit
For the brisk petulance of modern wit :
His hair ill cut, his robe that aukward flows,
Or his large shoes, to raillery expose
The man.——
But underneath this rough uncouth disguise,
A genius of extensive knowledge lies.

FRANCIS.

THERE are many accomplishments, which though they are comparatively trivial, and may be acquired by small abilities, are yet of great importance in our common intercourse with men. Of this kind is that general courtesy, which is called GOOD BREEDING; a name, by which, as an artificial excellence, it is at once characterised and recommended.

Good Breeding, as it is generally employed in the gratification of vanity, a passion almost universally predominant, is more highly prized

prized by the majority than any other ; and he who wants it, though he may be preserved from contempt by incontestible superiority either of virtue or of parts, will yet be regarded with malevolence, and avoided as an enemy with whom it is dangerous to combat.

In some instances, indeed, the enmity of others cannot be avoided without the participation of guilt ; but then it is the enmity of those, with whom neither virtue nor wisdom can desire to associate : and good breeding may generally be practised upon more easy and more honourable terms, than acquiescence in the detraction of malice or the adulation of servility, the obscenity of a lecher or the blasphemy of an infidel. Disagreeable truths may be suppressed ; and when they can be suppressed without guilt, they cannot innocently be uttered ; the boast of vanity may be suffered without severe reprehension, and the prattle of absurdity may be heard without expressions of contempt.

It happens, indeed, somewhat unfortunately, that the practice of good breeding, however necessary, is obstructed by the possession of more valuable talents ; and that great integrity, delicacy, sensibility, and spirit, exalted

genius, and extensive learning, frequently render men ill-bred.

PETRARCH relates, that his admirable friend and cotemporary DANTE ALIGHIERI, one of the most exalted and original geniuses that ever appeared, being banished his country, and having retired to the court of a prince which was then the sanctuary of the unfortunate, was held at first in great esteem; but became daily less acceptable to his patron, by the severity of his manners and freedom of his speech. There were at the same court, many players and buffoons, gamesters and debauchees, one of whom, distinguished by his impudence, ribaldry, and obscenity, was greatly caressed by the rest; which the prince suspecting DANTE not to be pleased with, ordered the man to be brought before him, and having highly extolled him, turned to DANTE, and said, "I wonder that this person, who is by some deemed a fool, and by others a madman, should yet be so generally pleasing, and so generally beloved; when you, who are celebrated for wisdom, are yet heard without pleasure and commended without friendship." "You would cease to wonder," replied DANTE, "if
"you

“you considered, that a conformity of character is the source of friendship.” This sarcasm, which had all the force of truth, and all the keenness of wit, was intolerable ; and DANTE was immediately disgraced and banished.

But by this answer, though the indignation which produced it was founded on virtue, DANTE probably gratified his own vanity, as much as he mortified that of others : it was the petulant reproach of resentment and pride, which is always retorted with rage ; and not the still voice of REASON, which is heard with complacency and reverence : if DANTE intended reformation, his answer was not wise ; if he did not intend reformation, his answer was not good.

Great delicacy, sensibility, and penetration, do not less obstruct the practice of good breeding than integrity. Persons thus qualified, not only discover proportionably more faults and failings in the characters which they examine, but are more disgusted with the faults and failings which they discover : the common topics of conversation are too trivial to engage their attention ; the various turns of fortune that have lately happened

at a game at Whist, the history of a ball at Tunbridge or Bath, a description of lady Fanny's jewels and lady Kitty's vapours, the journals of a horse-race, or a cock-match, and disquisitions on the game act or the scarcity of partridges, are subjects upon which men of delicate taste do not always chuse to declaim, and on which they cannot patiently hear the declamation of others. But they should remember, that their impatience is the impotence of reason and the prevalence of vanity; that if they sit silent and reserved, wrapped up in the contemplation of their own dignity, they will in their turn be despised and hated by those whom they hate and despise; and with better reason, for perverted power ought to be more odious than debility. To hear with patience, and to answer with civility, seems to comprehend all the good breeding of conversation; and in proportion as this is easy, silence and inattention are without excuse.

He, who does not practice good breeding, will not find himself considered as the object of good breeding by others. There is, however, a species of rusticity, which is not less absurd than injurious to treat with contempt :
this

this species of ill breeding is become almost proverbially the characteristic of a scholar; nor should it be expected that he who is deeply attentive to an abstruse science, or who employs any of the three great faculties of the soul, the memory, the imagination, or the judgement, in the close pursuit of their several objects, should have studied punctilios of form and ceremony, and be equally able to shine at a rout and in the schools. That the bow of a chronologer, and the compliment of an astronomer, should be improper or uncouth, cannot be thought strange to those, who duly consider the narrowness of our faculties, and the impossibility of attaining universal excellence.

Equally excusable, for the same reasons, are that absence of mind, and that forgetfulness of place and person, to which scholars are so frequently subject. when LEWIS XIV. was one day lamenting the death of an old comedian whom he highly extolled, "Yes, replied BOILEAU, in the presence of madam MAINTENON, " he performed tolerably " well in the despicable pieces of SCARRON, " which are now deservedly forgotten even " in the provinces."

As every condition of life, and every turn of mind, has some peculiar temptation and propensity to evil, let not the man of uprightness and honesty be morose and surly in his practice of virtue ; let not him, whose delicacy and penetration discern with disgust those imperfections in others from which he himself is not free, indulge perpetual peevishness and discontent ; nor let learning and knowledge be pleaded as an excuse for not condescending to the common offices and duties of civil life : for as no man should be well bred, at the expence of his VIRTUE; no man should practice virtue, so as to deter others from IMITATION.

N^o 88. SATURDAY, *September 8, 1753.*—*Semperque relinqui**Sola sibi, semper longam incommutata videtur**Ire viam—*

VIRG.

—She seems alone,

To wander in her sleep, thro' ways unknown,

Guileless and dark.—

DRYDEN.

NEWTON, whose power of investigating nature few will deny to have been superior to their own, confesses, that he cannot account for gravity, the first principle of his system, as a property communicable to matter; or conceive the phenomena supposed to be the effects of such a principle, to be otherwise produced, than by the immediate and perpetual influence of the ALMIGHTY: and, perhaps, those who most attentively consider the phenomena of the moral and natural world, will be most inclined to admit the agency of invisible beings.

In dreams, the mind appears to be wholly passive; for dreams are so far from being the effect of a voluntary effort, that we neither know of what we shall dream, nor whether we shall dream at all.

The

The human mind does not, indeed, appear to have any power equal to such an effect; for the ideas conceived in dreams without the intervention of sensible objects, are much more perfect and strong than can be formed at other times by the utmost effort of the most lively imagination: and it can scarce be supposed, that the mind is more vigorous when we sleep, than when we are awake; especially if it be true, as I have before remarked, that “in sleep the power
“of memory is wholly suspended, and the
“understanding is employed only about such
“objects as present themselves, without
“comparing the past with the present;” except we judge of the soul by a maxim which some deep philosophers have held concerning horses, that when the tail is cut off, the rest of the members become more strong.

In lunacy, as in dreams, ideas are conceived which material objects do not excite; and which the force of imagination, exerted by a voluntary effort, cannot form: but the mind of the lunatic, besides being impressed with the images of things that do not fall under the cognizance of his senses, is prevented from receiving corresponding ima-

ges from those that do. When the visionary monarch looks round upon his clothes which he has decorated with the spoils of his bed, his mind does not conceive the ideas of rags and straw but of velvet, embroidery, and gold ; and when he gazes at the bounds of his cell, the image impressed upon his mind is not that of a naked wall which incloses an area of ten feet square ; but of wainscot, and painting, and tapestry, the bounds of a spacious apartment adorned with magnificent furniture, and crowded with splendid dependents.

Of the lunatic it is also universally true, that his understanding is perverted to evils, which a mere perversion of the understanding does not necessarily imply ; he either sits torpid in despair, or is busied in the contrivance or the execution of mischief. But if lunacy is ultimately produced by mere material causes, it is difficult to shew, why misery or malevolence should always be complicated with absurdity ; why madness should not sometimes produce instances of frantic and extravagant kindness, of a benevolent purpose formed upon erroneous principles and pursued by ridiculous means, and of an honest
and

and harmless cheerfulness arising from the fancied felicity of others.

A lunatic is, indeed, sometimes merry, but the merry lunatic is never kind; his sport is always mischief; and mischief is rather aggravated than atoned by wantonness; his disposition is always evil in proportion to the height of his phrenzy; and upon this occasion it may be remarked, that if every approach to madness is a deviation to ill, every deviation to ill may be considered as an approach to madness.

Among other unaccountable phenomena in lunacy, is the invincible absurdity of opinion with respect to some single object, while the mind operates with its full vigour upon every other: it sometimes happens, that when this object is presented to the mind, reason is thrown quite out of her seat, and the perversion of the understanding for a time becomes general; but sometimes it still continues to be perverted but in part, and the absurdity itself is defended with all the force of regular argumentation.

A most extraordinary instance of this kind may now be communicated to the public,
without

without injury to a good man, or a good cause which he successfully maintained.

MR. SIMON BROWN, a dissenting teacher of exemplary life and eminent intellectual abilities, after having been some time seized with melancholy, desisted from the duties of his function, and could not be persuaded to join in any act of worship either public or private.

His friends often urged him to account for this change in his conduct, at which they expressed the utmost grief and astonishment; and after much importunity he told them, "that he had fallen under the sensible displeasure of GOD, who had caused his rational soul gradually to perish, and left him only an animal life in common with brutes; that it was, therefore, prophane for him to pray, and incongruous to be present at the prayers of others."

In this opinion, however absurd, he was inflexible at a time when all the powers of his mind subsisted in their full vigour, when his conceptions were clear, and his reasoning strong.

Being once importuned to say grace at the table of a friend, he excused himself many times; but the request being still repeated,
and

and the company kept standing, he discovered evident tokens of distress, and after some irresolute gestures and hesitation, expressed with great fervor this ejaculation: "Most merciful and almighty GOD, let thy spirit which moved upon the face of the waters, when there was no light, descend upon me; that from this darkness there may rise up a man to praise thee!"

But the most astonishing proof both of his intellectual excellence and defect is, "A defence of the RELIGION of NATURE and the CHRISTIAN REVELATION, in answer to Tindal's Christianity as old as the Creation," and his dedication of it to the late queen. The book is universally allowed to be the best which that controversy produced, and the dedication is as follows:

"MADAM,

"OF all the extraordinary things that have been tendered to your royal hands since your first happy arrival in Britain, it may be boldly said, what now bespeaks your majesty's acceptance is the chief:

"Not in itself indeed; it is a trifle unworthy your exalted rank, and what will hardly prove

“ prove an entertaining amusement to one of
 “ your majesty’s deep penetration, exact judge-
 “ ment, and fine taste.

“ But on account of the author, who is the
 “ first being of the kind, and yet without a
 “ name.

“ He was once a man ; and of some little
 “ name ; but of no worth, as his present unpa-
 “ ralleled case makes but too manifest ; for by
 “ the immediate hand of an avenging GOD,
 “ his very thinking substance has for more than
 “ seven years been continually wasting away,
 “ till it is wholly perished out of him, if it
 “ be not utterly come to nothing. None, no
 “ not the least remembrance of its very ruins,
 “ remains, not the shadow of an idea is left,
 “ nor any sense that, so much as one single
 “ one, perfect or imperfect, whole or dimi-
 “ nished, ever did appear to a mind within
 “ him, or was perceived by it.

“ Such a present from such a thing, how-
 “ ever worthless in itself, may not be wholly
 “ unacceptable to your majesty, the author
 “ being such as history cannot parallel : and
 “ if the fact, which is real and no fiction,
 “ nor wrong conceit, obtains credit, it
 “ must be recorded as the most memorable
 and

“ and indeed astonishing event in the reign of
“ GEORGE the second, that a tract composed
“ by such a thing was presented to the illustrious CAROLINE; his royal consort needs
“ not be added; fame, if I am not misinformed, will tell that with pleasure to all succeeding times.

“ He has been informed, that your majesty’s piety is as genuine and eminent, as
“ your excellent qualities are great and conspicuous. This can, indeed, be truly known to
“ the great searcher of hearts only; He alone
“ who can look into them, can discern if
“ they are sincere, and the main intention
“ corresponds with the appearance; and your
“ majesty cannot take it amiss, if such an author hints, that His secret approbation is of
“ infinitely greater value than the commendation of men, who may be easily mistaken
“ and are apt to flatter their superiors.

“ But if he had been told the truth, such
“ a case as his will certainly strike your majesty with astonishment, and may raise that
“ commiseration in your royal breast which he
“ has in vain endeavoured to excite in those of
“ his friends; who by the most unreasonable

“ and ill-founded conceit in the world, have
 “ imagined, that a thinking being could for
 “ seven years together live a stranger to its
 “ own powers, exercises, operations and state,
 “ and to what the great God has being doing
 “ in it and to it.

“ If your majesty, in your most retired ad-
 “ dress to the KING of KINGS, should think
 “ of so singular a case, you may, perhaps,
 “ make it your devout request, that the reign
 “ of your beloved sovereign and consort may
 “ be renowned to all posterity by the recovery
 “ of a soul now in the utmost ruin, the
 “ restoration of one utterly lost at present
 “ amongst men.

“ And should this case affect your royal
 “ breast, you will recommend it to the piety
 “ and prayers of all the truly devout, who
 “ have the honour to be known to your
 “ majesty : many such doubtless there are,
 “ though courts are not usually the places
 “ where the devout resort, or where devotion
 “ reigns. And it is not improbable, that mul-
 “ titudes of the pious throughout the land
 “ may take a case to heart, that under
 “ your majesty’s patronage comes thus re-
 “ commended.

“ Could such a favour as this restoration be
“ obtained from HEAVEN by the prayers of
“ your majesty, with what a transport of
“ gratitude would the recovered being throw
“ himself at your majesty’s feet, and adoring
“ the Divine Power and GRACE profess
“ himself,

“ M A D A M,

“ Your majesty’s most obliged
“ and dutiful servant.”

This dedication, which is no where feeble or absurd, but in the places where the object of his phrenzy was immediately before him, his friends found means to suppress; wisely considering, that a book, to which it should be prefixed, would certainly be condemned without examination; for few would have required stronger evidence of its inutility, than that the author, by his dedication, appeared to be mad. The copy, however, was preserved, and has been transcribed into the blank leaves before one of the books which is now in the library of a friend to this undertaking, who is not less distinguished by his merit than his rank, and who recommended it as a literary curiosity, which was in danger of being lost for want of a repository in which it might be preserved. N^o

Nº 89. TUESDAY, *September 11, 1753.*

Præcipua tamen ejus in commovendâ miseratione virtus, ut quidam in hac eum parte omnibus ejusdem operis autoribus præferant.

QUINTILIAN.

His great excellence was in moving compassion, with respect to which many give him the first place of all the writers of that kind.

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

IT is usual for scholars to lament, with indiscriminating regret, the devastations committed on ancient libraries, by accident and time, by superstition, ignorance, and Gothicism; but the loss is very far from being in all cases equally irreparable, as the want of some kinds of books may be much more easily supplied than that of others. By the interruption that sometimes happens in the succession of philosophical opinions, the mind is emancipated from traditionary systems, recovers its native elasticity which had been benumbed by custom, begins to examine with freedom and fresh vigour, and to follow truth instead of authority. The loss of wri-

D d 2

tings,

tings, therefore, in which reasoning is concerned, is not, perhaps, so great an evil to mankind, as of those which describe characters and facts.

To be deprived of the last books of LIVY, of the satires of ARCHILOCHUS, and the comedies of MENANDER, is a greater misfortune to the republic of literature, than if the logic and the physics of ARISTOTLE had never descended to posterity.

Two of your predecessors, Mr. ADVENTURER, of great judgement and genius, very justly thought that they should adorn their lucubrations by publishing, one of them a fragment of SAPPHO, and the other an old Grecian hymn to the Goddess HEALTH: and, indeed, I conceive it to be a very important use of your paper, to bring into common light those beautiful remains of ancient art, which by their present situation are deprived of that universal admiration they so justly deserve, and are only the secret enjoyment of a few curious readers. In imitation, therefore, of the examples I have just mentioned, I shall send you, for the instruction and entertainment of your readers, a fragment of SIMONIDES and of MENANDER.

SIMO-

SIMONIDES was celebrated by the ancients for the sweetness, correctness, and purity of his style, and his irresistible skill in moving the passions. It is a sufficient panegyric that Plato often mentions him with approbation. DIONYSIUS places him among those polished writers, who excel “in a smooth volubility, “and flow on, like plenteous and perennial “rivers, in a course of even and uninterrupted “harmony.”

It is to this excellent critic that we are indebted for the preservation of the following passage, the tenderness and elegance of which scarcely need be pointed out to those who have taste and sensibility. DANAË, being by her mercilefs father inclosed in a chest and thrown into the sea with her child, the poet proceeds thus far to relate her distress :

“Οτε λαρυακι ἐν θαιδαλει ανιμος
 Βρεμη πνεων, κινηθεισα δε λιμνα
 Δειμαλι ερειπων· ἔτ’ αδιαλκισι
 Παρειαις, αμφι τε Περσει βαλλε
 Φιλαν χερα ειπεν τε——Ω τεκνον,
 Οιον εχω, πονον. συ δ’ αυτε γαλαθην
 Ἦτορι κλωσσεις εν αλερπει δωματι,
 Χαλχογομφω δε, νυκτιαλμπει,

Κυατειν τε δυοφω, συ δ', αυαλειαν
 Ὑπερθε τεαν κομαν βαθειαν
 Παριουλος κυματος ηκ αλεγεις
 Ουδ ανεμς φθογῶν, πορθυρεα
 Κειμενος εν χλαιδι, προσωπον καλον,
 Ει δε τοι δεινον το γε δεινον ην,
 Και κεν εμων ρημαῖων λεπτου
 Τπειχης ἕας. Κιλομαι, ευδε βερφε,
 Ευδετω δε ποντε, ευδετω αμετρου κακου.

When the raging wind began to roar, and
 the waves to beat so violently on the chest as
 to threaten to overfet it, she threw her arm
 fondly around PERESUS, and said, the tears
 trickling down her cheeks, “ O my son,
 “ what sorrows do I undergo ! But thou art
 “ wrapt in a deep slumber ; thou sleepest
 “ soundly like a sucking child, in this joy-
 “ less habitation, in this dark and dreadful
 “ night, lighted only by the glimmerings of
 “ the moon ! Covered with thy purple mantle,
 “ thou regardest not the waves that dash
 “ around thee, nor the whistling of the winds,
 “ O thou beauteous babe ! If thou wert
 “ sensible of this calamity, thou wouldest
 “ bend thy tender ears to my complaints,
 “ Sleep on, I beseech thee, O my child ! Sleep,
 with

“ with him, O ye billows ! and sleep like-
 “ wife my distrefs !”

Those who would form a full idea of the delicacy of the Greek, should attentively consider the following happy imitation of it, which I have reason to believe, is not so extensively known or so warmly admired as it ought to be ; and which, indeed, far excels the original.

The poet, having pathetically painted a great princess taking leave of an affectionate husband on his death-bed, and endeavouring afterwards to comfort her inconsolable family, adds the following particular.

*His conatibus occupata, ocellos
 Guttis lucidulis adhuc madentes
 Convertit, puerum sopore vinctum
 Quã nutrix placido sinu fovebat :*
 “ Dormis” inquit, “ O miselle, nec te
 “ Vultus exanimes, silentiumque
 “ Per longa atria commovent, nec ullo
 “ Fratrum tangeris, aut meo dolore ;
 “ Nec sentis patre destitutus illo,
 “ Qui gestans genibusve brachiove,
 “ Aut formans lepidam tuam loquelam,
 “ Tecum mille modis ineptiebat.
 “ Tu dormis, volitantque qui solebant
 “ Risus, in roseis tuis labellis.—
 “ Dormi, parvule ! nec mali dolores

"Qui matrem cruciant tuæ quietis

"Rumpant somnia.— Quando, quando, tales

"Redibunt oculis meis sopores!"

The contrast betwixt the insensibility of the infant and the agony of the mother ; her observing that the child is unmoved with what was most likely to affect him, the sorrows of his little brothers, the many mournful countenances, and the dismal silence that reigned throughout the court ; the circumstances of the father playing with the child on his knees or in his arms, and teaching him to speak ; are such delicate master-strokes of nature and parental tenderness, as shew the author is intimately acquainted with the human heart, and with those little touches of passion that are best calculated to move it. The affectionate wish of "*dormi, parvule*" is plainly imitated from the fragment of *SIMONIDES* ; but the sudden exclamation that follows,—"*when, O when, shall I sleep like this infant !*" is intirely the property of the author, and worthy of, though not excelled by, any of the ancients. It is making the most artful and the most striking use of the slumber of the child, to aggravate and
highten

heighten by comparison the restlessness of the mother's sorrow ; it is the finest and strongest way of saying, " my grief will never cease," that has ever been used. I think it not exaggeration to affirm, that in this little poem are united the pathetic of EURIPIDES and the elegance of CATULLUS. It affords a judicious example of the manner in which the ancients ought to be imitated ; not by using their expressions and epithets, which is the common method, but by catching a portion of their spirit, and adapting their images and ways of thinking to new subjects. The generality of those who have proposed CATULLUS for their pattern, even the best of the modern Latin poets of Italy, seem to think they have accomplished their design, by introducing many florid diminutives, such as " tenellula, and columbula : " but there is a purity and severity of style, a temperate and austere manner in CATULLUS, which nearly resembles that of his contemporary LUCRETIUS, and is happily copied by the author of the poem which has produced these reflections. Whenever, therefore, we sit down to compose, we should ask ourselves in the words of LONGINUS a little altered ; " How
 " would

“would HOMER or PLATO, DEMOSTHENES
 “or THUCYDIDES, have expressed themselves
 “on this occasion ; allowing for the alteration
 “of our customs, and the different idioms of
 “our respective languages ?” This would be
 following the ancients, without tamely tread-
 ing in their footsteps ; this would be making
 the same glorious use of them that RACINE
 has done of EURIPIDES in his PHÆDRA and
 IPHIGENIA, and that MILTON has done of
 the PROMETHEUS of ESCHYLUS in the cha-
 racter of SATAN.

If you should happen not to lay aside this
 paper among the refuse of your correspond-
 ence, as the offspring of pedantry and a blind
 fondness for antiquity ; or rather, if your
 readers can endure the sight of so much
 Greek, though ever so ATTIC ; I may, per-
 haps, trouble you again with a few reflections
 on the characters of MENANDER.

Z

I am,

Mr. ADVENTURER,

Yours,

PALÆOPHILUS.

N^o 90. SATURDAY, September 15, 1753.

*Concretam exemit labem, purumque reliquit
Ætherium sensum, atque auræ simplicis ignem.*

VIRGIL,

—By length of time,
The scurf is worn away of each committed crime ;
No speck is left of their habitual stains,
But the pure æther of the soul remains.

DRYDEN.

To the ADVENTURER.

S I R,

NOTHING sooner quells the ridiculous triumph of human vanity, than reading those passages of the greatest writers, in which they seem deprived of that noble spirit that inspires them in other parts ; and where, instead of invention and grandeur, we meet with nothing but flatness and insipidity.

The pain I have felt in observing a lofty genius thus sink beneath itself, has often made me wish, that these unworthy stains could be blotted from their works, and leave them perfect and immaculate.

I went to bed a few nights ago, full of these thoughts, and closed the evening, as
I fre-

I frequently do with reading a few lines in VIRGIL. I accidentally opened that part of the sixth book, where ANCHISES recounts to his son the various methods of purgation which the soul undergoes in the next world, to cleanse it from the filth it has contracted by its connection with the body, and to deliver the pure ethereal essence from the vicious tincture of mortality. This was so much like my evening's speculation, that it insensibly mixed and incorporated with it, and as soon as I fell asleep, formed itself into the following dream.

I found myself in an instant in the midst of a temple which was built with all that magnificent simplicity that distinguishes the productions of the ancients. At the east end was raised an altar, on each side of which stood a priest, who seemed preparing to sacrifice. On the altar was kindled a fire, from which arose the brightest flame I had ever beheld. The light which it dispensed, though remarkably strong and clear, was not quivering and dazzling, but steady and uniform, and diffused a purple radiance through the whole edifice, not unlike the first appearance of the morning.

While

While I stood fixed in admiration, my attention was awakened by the blast of a trumpet that shook the whole temple ; but it carried a certain sweetness in its sound, which mellowed and tempered the natural shrillness of that instrument. After it had sounded thrice, the being who blew it, habited according to the description of FAME by the ancients, issued a proclamation to the following purpose : “ By command of APOLLO and
 “ the MUSES, all who have ever made any
 “ pretensions to fame by their writings, are
 “ enjoined to sacrifice upon the altar in this
 “ temple, those parts of their works, which
 “ have hitherto been preserved to the infamy,
 “ that their names may descend spotless and
 “ unsullied to posterity. For this purpose
 “ ARISTOTLE and LONGINUS are appointed
 “ chief priests, who are to see that no
 “ improper oblations are made, and no pro-
 “ per ones concealed ; and for the more easy
 “ performance of this office, they are allow-
 “ ed to chuse as their assistants whomsoever
 “ they shall think worthy of the func-
 “ tion.”

As soon as this proclamation was made, I turned my eyes with inexpressible delight to-
 wards

wards the two priests ; but was soon robbed of the pleasure of looking at them by a croud of people running up to offer their service.

These I found to be a groupe of French critics ; but their offers were rejected by both priests with the utmost indignation, and their whole works were thrown on the altar, and reduced to ashes in an instant. The two priests then looked round and chose, with a few others, HORACE and QUINTILIAN from among the Romans, and ADDISON from the English, as their principal assistants.

The first who came forward with his offering, by the loftiness of his demeanor was soon discovered to be HOMER. He approached the altar with great majesty, and delivered to LONGINUS those parts of his ODYSSEY, which have been censured as improbable fictions, and the ridiculous narratives of old age. LONGINUS was preparing for the sacrifice, but observing that ARISTOTLE did not seem willing to assist him in the office he returned them to the venerable old bard with great deference, saying, that “ they “ were indeed the tales of old age, but it was “ the old age of HOMER.”

VIRGIL

VIRGIL appeared next, and approached the altar with a modest dignity in his gait and countenance peculiar to himself: and to the surprize of all committed his whole *ÆNEID* to the flames. But it was immediately rescued by two Romans, whom I found to be *TUCCA* and *VARIUS*, who ran with precipitation to the altar, delivered the poem from destruction, and carried off the author between them, repeating that glorious boast of about forty lines at the beginning of the third *Georgic*:

—*Tentanda via est; qua me quoque possim
Tollere humo, victorque virum volitare per ora,
• Primus ego in patriam mecum, &c.*

After him most of the Greek and Roman authors proceeded to the altar, and surrendered with great modesty and humility the most faulty part of their works. One circumstance was observable, that the sacrifice always increased in proportion as the author had ventured to deviate from a judicious imitation of Homer. The latter Roman authors, who seemed almost to have lost sight of him, made so large offerings, that some of their works, which were before very voluminous, shrunk into the compass of a primer.

It

It gave me the highest satisfaction to see PHILOSOPHY thus cleared from erroneous principles, HISTORY purged of falsehood, POETRY of fustian, and nothing left in each but GENIUS, SENSE, and TRUTH.

I marked with particular attention the several offerings of the most eminent English writers. CHAUCER gave up his obscenity, and then delivered his works to DRYDEN to clear them from the rubbish that encumbered them. DRYDEN executed his task with great address, "and," as ADDISON says of VIRGIL in his Georgics, "toss'd about his dung with an air of gracefulness:" he not only repaired the injuries of time, but threw in a thousand new graces. He then advanced towards the altar himself and delivered up a large packet, which contained many plays, and some poems. The packet had a label affixed to it which bore this inscription, "To Poverty."

SHAKESPEARE carried to the altar a long string of puns, marked "The Taste of the Age," a small parcel of bombast, and a pretty large bundle of incorrectness. Notwithstanding the ingenuous air with which he made this offering, some officiates at the al-

tar accused him of concealing certain pieces, and mentioned the London Prodigal, Sir Thomas Cromwell, The Yorkshire Tragedy, &c. The poet replied, "that as those pieces were unworthy to be preserved, he should see them consumed to ashes with great pleasure: but that he was wholly innocent of their original." The two chief priests interposed in this dispute, and dismissed the poet with many compliments; LONGINUS observing, that the pieces in question could not possibly be his, for that the failings of SHAKESPEARE were like those of Homer, "whose genius, whenever it subsided, might be compared to the ebbing of the ocean, which left a mark upon its shores, to shew to what a height it was sometimes carried," ARISTOTLE concurred in this opinion, and added, "that although SHAKESPEARE was quite ignorant of that exact œconomy of the stage, which is so remarkable in the Greek writers, yet the meer strength of his genius had in many points carried him infinitely beyond them."

MILTON gave up a few errors in his PARADISE LOST, and the sacrifice was attended with great decency by ADDISON. OTWAY

and ROWE threw their comedies upon the altar, and BEAUMONT and FLETCHER the two last acts of many of their pieces. They were followed by TOM DURFEY, ETHERIDGE, WYCHERLEY, and several other dramatic writers, who made such large contributions, that they set the altar in a blaze.

Among these I was surprised to see an author with much politeness in his behaviour, and spirit in his countenance, tottering under an unwieldy burden. As he approached I discovered him to be SIR JOHN VANBRUGH, and could not but smile, when, on his committing his heavy load to the flames it proved to be "His skill in Architecture."

POPE advanced towards ADDISON, and delivered with great humility those lines written expressly against him, so remarkable for their excellence and their cruelty, repeating this couplet.

"Curst be the verse, how well foe'er it flow,

"That tends to make one worthy man-my foe."

The ingenious critic insisted on his taking them again: "for," said he, "my associates at the altar, particularly HORACE, would never
"permit

"permit a line of so excellent a satirist to be
 "consumed. The many compliments paid
 "me in other parts of your works, amply
 "compensate for this slight indignity. And
 "be assured, that no little pique or mis-
 "understanding shall ever make me a foe to
 "genius." POPE bowed in some confusion,
 and promised to substitute a fictitious name at
 least, which was left in his power. He
 then retired, after having made a sacrifice of
 a little packet of Antitheses, and some parts
 of his Translation of Homer.

During the course of these oblations, I
 was charmed with the candour, decency,
 and judgement with which all the priests
 discharged their different functions. They
 behaved with such dignity, that it reminded
 me of those ages, when the offices of king
 and priest centered in the same person.
 Whenever any of the assistants were at a
 loss in any particular circumstances, they ap-
 plied to ARISTOTLE, who settled the whole
 business in an instant.

But the reflections which this pleasing
 scene produced, were soon interrupted by a
 tumultuous noise at the gate of the temple ;
 when suddenly a rude illiterate multitude

rushed in, led by TINDAL, MORGAN, CHUB and BOLINGBROKE. The chiefs, whose countenances were impressed with rage which art could not conceal, forced their way to the altar, and amidst the joyful acclamations of their followers threw a large volume into the fire. But the triumph was short, and joy and acclamation gave way to silence and astonishment: the volume lay unhurt in the midst of the fire, and, as the flames played innocently about it, I could discover written in letters of gold, the words, THE BIBLE. At that instant my ears were ravished with the sound of more than mortal music accompanying a hymn sung by invisible beings, of which I well remember the following verses:

“The words of the LORD are pure words:

“even as the silver, which in the earth is tried

“and purified seven times in the fire.

“More to be desired are they than gold;

“yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than

“honey, and the honey-comb.”

The united melody of instruments and voices, which formed a concert so exquisite, that, as MILTON says, “it might create
“a soul under the ribs of death,” threw

me into such extasies, that I was awakened by their violence.

I am, SIR,

Your humble servant,

CRITO.

Nº 91. TUESDAY, September 18, 1753.

—*Facto pius et sceleratus eodem.*

OVID.

Thus was the father pious to a crime.

ADDISON.

IT is contended by those who reject CHRISTIANITY, that if revelation had been necessary as a rule of life to mankind, it would have been universal ; and they are, upon this principle, compelled to affirm that only to be a rule of life which is universally known.

But no rule of life is universally known, except the dictates of conscience. With respect to particular actions, opinion determines whether they are good or ill ; and conscience approves or disapproves, in consequence of this determination whether it be in favour of truth or falsehood. Nor can the errors of conscience be always imputed to a

criminal neglect of inquiry : those, by whom a system of moral truths was discovered through the gloom of paganism, have been considered as prodigies, and regarded by successive ages with astonishment and admiration ; and that which immortalised one among many millions, can scarce be thought possible to all. Men do not usually shut their eyes against their immediate interest, however they may be thought to wink against their duty ; and so little does either appear to be discoverable by the light of nature, that where the DIVINE PRESCRIPTION has either been with-held or corrupted, superstition has rendered piety cruel, and error has armed virtue against herself ; misery has been cultivated by those who have not incurred guilt ; and though all men had been innocent they might still have been wretched.

In the reign of YAMODIN the Magnificent, the kingdom of Golconda was depopulated by a pestilence ; and after every other attempt to propitiate the gods had failed, it was believed, according to the superstition of the country, that they required the sacrifice of a virgin of royal blood.

It

It happened that at this time there was no virgin of the royal blood but TAMIRA the daughter of YAMODIN, whom he had betrothed to one of the princes of his court, intending that he should succeed to the throne; for YAMODIN had no son, and he was not willing that his empire should descend to a woman.

YAMODIN considered himself not less the father of his people, than of TAMIRA; and therefore, with whatever reluctance, determined to redeem the life of the public, with that of the individual. He prostrated himself in the temple and invoked his principal idol as the fountain of life: "from thee," said he, "I have derived my being, and the life which I have propagated is thine: when I am about to restore it, let me remember with gratitude, that I possessed it by thy bounty; and let thy mercy accept it as a ransom for my people."

Orders were given for the sacrifice on the next day, and TAMIRA was permitted to dispose of the interval as she pleased. She received the intimation of her father's pleasure without much surprize; because as she knew the custom of her country, she scarce hoped

that the demand of her life would have been delayed so long: she fortified herself against the terrors of death, by anticipating the honours that would be paid to her memory; and had just triumphed over the desire of life, when, upon perceiving her lover enter the apartment, she lost her fortitude in a moment and burst into tears.

When they were alone, after his eyes had like her's overflowed with silent sorrow, he took her hand, and with a look of inexpressible anxiety and tenderness told her, that one expedient was yet left, by which her life might be preserved; that he had bribed a priest to his interest, by whom the ceremonies of marriage might be immediately performed; that on the morrow, as she would be no longer a virgin, the propitiation of the gods could not be effected by her death, and that her father, though for political purposes he might appear to be displeased, would yet secretly rejoice at an event, which, without his concurrence, had delivered him from the dreadful obligation of sacrificing an only child, through whom he hoped to transmit dominion to his posterity.

To this proposal TAMIRA, whose attachment

tachment to life was now strengthened by love, and in whose bosom the regret of precluded pleasure had succeeded to the hope of glory, at length consented ; but she consented with all the timidity, reluctance, and confusion, which are produced by a consciousness of guilt ; and the prince himself introducing the man, who was to accomplish the purpose both of his ambition and his love with apparent tremor and hesitation.

On the morrow, when the priest stood ready at the altar to receive the victim, and the king commanded his daughter to be brought forth, the prince produced her as his wife. YAMODIN stood some moments in suspense ; and then dismissing the assembly, retired to his palace. After having remained about two hours in private, he sent for the prince. “ The
“ gods,” said he, “ though they continue the
“ pestilence, have yet in mercy rescued my
“ people from the oppression of a tyrant,
“ who appears to consider the life of millions
“ as nothing in competition with the indul-
“ gence of his lust, his avarice, or his ambi-
“ tion.” YAMODIN then commanded him to be put to death, and the sentence was executed the same hour,

TAMIRA

TAMIRA now repented in unutterable distress of a crime, by which the pleasures not only of possession but hope were precluded; her attachment to life was broken, by the very means which she had taken to preserve it; and as an atonement for the forfeit of her virginity, she determined to submit to that law of marriage, from which as a princess only she was exempted, and to throw herself on the pile by which the body of her husband was to be consumed. To this her father consented: their ashes were scattered to the winds, and their names were forbidden to be repeated.

If by these events it is evident, that YAMODIN discerned no law which would have justified the preservation of his daughter; and if it is absurd to suppose his integrity to be vicious, because he had less power and opportunity to obtain knowledge than PLATO; it will follow, that by whatever rule the oblation of human sacrifice may be condemned, the conduct of YAMODIN which would have produced such sacrifice was morally right, and that of the prince which prevented it was morally wrong; that the consent of TAMIRA to the marriage was vicious,
and

and that her suicide was heroic virtue, though in her marriage she concurred with a general law of nature, and by her death opposed it : for moral right and wrong are terms that are wholly relative to the agent by whom the action is performed, and not to the action itself considered abstractedly, for abstractedly it can be right or wrong only in a natural sense. It appears, therefore, that REVELATION is necessary to the establishment even of natural religion, and that it is more rational to suppose it has been vouchsafed in part than not at all.

It may, perhaps, be asked of what use then is conscience as a guide of life, since in these instances it appears not to coincide with the DIVINE LAW, but to oppose it ; to condemn that which is enjoined, and approve that which is forbidden : but to this question the answer is easy.

The end which conscience approves is always good, though she sometimes mistakes the means : the end which YAMODIN proposed was deliverance from the pestilence ; but he did not nor could know, that this end was not to be obtained by human sacrifice : and the end which conscience condemns

condemns is always ill ; for the end proposed by the prince, was private gain by public loss. By conscience, then, all men are restrained from intentional ill, and directed in their choice of the end though not of the means : it infallibly directs us to avoid guilt, but is not intended to secure us from error ; it is not, therefore, either useless as a law to ourselves, nor yet sufficient to regulate our conduct with respect to others ; it may sting with remorse, but it cannot cheer us with hope. It is by REVELATION alone that virtue and happiness are connected : by REVELATION, “ we are led into all truth ;” conscience is directed to effect its purpose, and repentance is encouraged by the hope of pardon. If this sun is risen upon our hemisphere, let us not consider it only as the object of speculation and inquiry ; let us rejoice in its influence, and walk by its light ; regarding rather with contempt than indignation, those who are only solicitous to discover, why its radiance is not farther diffused and wilfully shut their eyes against it, because they see others stumble to whom it has been denied.

It

It is not necessary to inquire, what would be determined at the GREAT TRIBUNAL, concerning a heathen who had in every instance obeyed the dictates of conscience, however erroneous; because it will readily be granted, that no such moral perfection was ever found among men: but it is easy to ascertain the fate of those, “who love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil;” who violate the law that has been written upon the heart, and reject that which has been offered them from ABOVE; who though their sins are as scarlet, cavil at the terms on which they might be white as snow; and though their iniquities have been multiplied without number, revile the hand that would blot them from the REGISTER of HEAVEN.

N^o 92. SATURDAY, September 22, 1753.

Cum tabulis animum censoris sumet honesti.

HOR.

Bold be the critic, zealous to his trust,
Like the firm judge inexorably just.

To the ADVENTURER.

SIR,

IN the papers of criticism which you have given to the public, I have remarked a spirit of candor and love of truth, equally remote from bigotry and captiousness; a just distribution of praise amongst the antients and the moderns; a sober deference to reputation long established; without a blind adoration of antiquity; and a willingness to favour later performances, without a light or puerile fondness for novelty.

I shall, therefore, venture to lay before you, such observations as have risen to my mind in the consideration of VIRGIL's pastorals, without any inquiry how far my sentiments deviate from established rules or common opinions.

If we survey the ten pastorals in a general view, it will be found that VIRGIL can derive

rive from them very little claim to the praise of an inventor. To search into the antiquity of this kind of poetry, is not my present purpose ; that it has long subsisted in the east, the SACRED WRITINGS sufficiently inform us ; and we may conjecture, with great probability, that it was some times the devotion, and sometimes the entertainment of the first generation of mankind. THEOCRITUS united elegance with simplicity ; and taught his shepherds to sing with so much ease and harmony, that his countrymen despairing to excel, forbore to imitate him ; and the Greeks, however vain or ambitious, left him in quiet possession of the garlands which the wood nymphs had bestowed upon him.

VIRGIL, however, taking advantage of another language, ventured to copy or to rival the SICILIAN BARD : he has written with greater splendor of diction, and elevation of sentiment : but as the magnificence of his performances was more, the simplicity was less ; and, perhaps, where he excels THEOCRITUS, he sometimes obtains his superiority by deviating from the pastoral character, and performing what THEOCRITUS never attempted.

Yet, though I would willingly pay to THEOCRITUS the honour which is always due to an original author, I am far from intending to depreciate VIRGIL; of whom HORACE justly declares, that the rural muses have appropriated to him their elegance and sweetness, and who, as he copied THEOCRITUS in his design, has resembled him likewise in his success; for, if we except CALPHURNIUS, an obscure author of the lower ages, I know not that a single pastoral was written after him by any poet till the revival of literature.

But though his general merit has been universally acknowledged I am far from thinking all the productions of his rural Thalia equally excellent: there is indeed, in all his pastorals a strain of versification which it is vain to seek in any other poet; but if we except the first and the tenth, they seem liable either wholly or in part to considerable objections.

The second, though we should forget the great charge against it, which I am afraid can never be refuted, might, I think, have perished without any diminution of the praise of its author; for I know not that it contains one affecting sentiment or pleasing description,

or

or one passage that strikes the imagination or awakens the passions.

The third contains a contest between two shepherds, begun with a quarrel of which some particulars might well be spared, carried on with sprightliness and elegance, and terminated at last in a reconciliation : but, surely, whether the invectives with which they attack each other be true or false, they are too much degraded from the dignity of pastoral innocence : and instead of rejoicing that they are both victorious, I should not have grieved could they have been both defeated.

The poem to POLLIO is, indeed, of another kind : it is filled with images at once splendid and pleasing, and is elevated with grandeur of language worthy of the first of Roman poets : but I am not able to reconcile myself to the disproportion, between the performance and the occasion that produced it ; that the golden age should return because POLLIO had a son, appears so wild a fiction, that I am ready to suspect the poet of having written, for some other purpose, what he took this opportunity of producing to the public.

The fifth contains a celebration of Daphnis which has stood to all succeeding ages as the

model of pastoral elegies. To deny praise to a performance which so many thousands have laboured to imitate, would be to judge with too little deference for the opinion of mankind : yet whoever shall read it with impartiality, will find that most of the images are of the mythological kind, and therefore easily inverted ; and that there are few sentiments of rational praise or natural lamentation.

In the Silenus he again rises to the dignity of philosophic sentiments and heroic poetry. The address to VARUS is eminently beautiful : but since the compliment paid to GALLUS fixes the transaction to his own time, the fiction of Silenus seems injudicious ; nor has any sufficient reason yet been found, to justify his choice of those fables that make the subject of the song.

The seventh exhibits another contest of the tuneful shepherds : and surely it is not without some reproach to his inventive power, that of ten pastorals VIRGIL has written two upon the same plan. One of the shepherds now gains an acknowledged victory, but without any apparent superiority ; and the

the reader, when he sees the prize adjudged, is not able to discover how it was deserved.

* Of the eighth pastoral, so little is properly the work of VIRGIL, that he has no claim to other praise or blame than that of a translator.

Of the ninth, it is scarce possible to discover the design or tendency : it is said, I know not upon what authority, to have been composed from fragments of other poems ; and except a few lines in which the author touches upon his own misfortunes, there is nothing that seems appropriated to any time or place, or of which any other use can be discovered than to fill up the poem.

The first and the tenth pastorals, whatever be determined of the rest, are sufficient to place their author above the reach of rivalry. The complaint of GALLUS disappointed in his love is full of such sentiments as disappointed love naturally produces ; his wishes are wild his resentment is tender, and his purposes are inconstant. In the genuine language of despair, he soothes himself a-while with the pity that shall be paid him after his death :

—*Tamen cantabitis, Arcades, inquit,
Montibus hæc vestris : soli cantare periti
Arcades. O mihi tum quam molliter ossa quiescant,
Vestra meos olim si fistula dicat amores !*

—Yet, O Arcadian swains,
 Ye best artificers of soothing strains !
 Tune your soft reeds, and teach your rocks my woes,
 So shall my shade in sweeter rest repose.
 O that your birth and business had been mine ;
 To feed the flock, and prune the spreading vine !

WARTON.

Discontented with his present condition,
 and desirous to be any thing but what he is, he
 wishes himself one of the shepherds. He
 then catches the idea of rural tranquillity ;
 but soon discovers how much happier he
 should be in these happy regions, with LY-
 CORIS at his side.

*Hic gelidi fontes, hic mollia prata, Lycori !
 Hic nemus ; hic ipso tecum consumerer ævo.
 Nunc insanus amor duri me Martis in armis ;
 Tela inter media, atque adversos detinet hostes.
 Tu procul a patriâ (nec sit mihi credere) tantum
 Alpinas, ab dura, nives, & frigore Rheni
 Me sine sola vides. Ah te ne frigora lædant !
 Ah tibi ne teneras glacies secet aspera plantas !*

Here cooling fountains roll thro' flow'ry meads,
 Here woods, Lycoris, lift their verdant heads ;
 Here could I wear my careless life away,
 And in thy arms insensibly decay.
 Instead of that, me frantic love detains
 'Mid foes, and dreadful darts, and bloody plains :
 While you——and can my soul the tale believe ;
 Far from your country, lonely wand'ring leave
 Me, me your lover, barbarous fugitive !

Seek

Seek the rough Alps where snows eternal shine,
 And joyless borders of the frozen Rhine.
 Ah! may no cold e'er blast my dearest maid,
 Nor pointed ice thy tender feet invade!

WARTON.

He then turns his thoughts on every side,
 in quest of something that may solace or
 amuse him : he proposes happiness to himself,
 first in one scene and then in another ; and
 at last finds that nothing will satisfy :

*Nam neque Hamadryades rursum, nec carmina nobis
 Ipsa placent ; ipsæ rursum concedite sylvæ.
 Non illum nostri possunt mutare labores ;
 Nec si frigoribus mediis Hebrumque bibamus,
 Scithoniasque nives hyemis subeamus aquosæ :
 Nec si, cum moriens alta liber aret in ulmo,
 Æthiopum versemus oves sub sidere Cancræ,
 Omnia vincit amor ; et nos cedamus amori.*

But now again no more the woodland maids,
 Nor pastoral songs delight—Farewell, ye shades—
 Nor toils of ours the cruel god can change
 Tho' lost in frozen deserts we should range ;
 Tho' we should drink where chilling Hebrus flows
 Endure bleak winter's blasts, and Thracian snows ;
 Or on hot India's plains our flocks should feed,
 Where the parch'd elm declines his sickening head ;
 Beneath fierce-glowing Cancer's fiery beams ;
 Far from cool breezes and refreshing streams.
 Love over all maintains resistless sway,
 And let us love's all-conquering power obey.

WARTON.

But

But notwithstanding the excellence of the tenth pastoral, I cannot forbear to give the preference to the first, which is equally natural and more diversified. The complaint of the shepherd, who saw his old companion at ease in the shade, while himself was driving his little flock he knew not whither, is such as, with variation of circumstances, misery always utters at the sight of prosperity :

*Nos patriæ fines, & dulcia linquimus arva ;
Nos patriam fugimus : tu, Tityre, lentus in umbra,
Formosam resonare doces Amaryllida sylvas.*

We leave our country's bounds, our much lov'd plains ;
We from our country fly, unhappy swains !
You, Tit'rus, in the groves at leisure laid,
Teach Amaryllis' name to every shade.

WARTON.

His account of the difficulties of his journey, gives a very tender image of pastoral distress :

————— *En ipse capellas*
*Protenus æger ago : hanc etiam vix, Tityre, duco :
Hic inter densas corylos modo namque gemellos,
Spem gregis, ab ! filice in nuda connixa reliquit ;*

And lo ! sad partner of the general care,
Weary and faint I drive my goats afar !
While scarcely this my leading hand sustains,
Tir'd with the way, and recent from her pains ;

For 'mid yon tangled hazels as we past,
On the bare flints her hapless twins she cast,
'The hopes and promise of my ruin'd fold!

WARTON.

The description of VIRGIL's happiness in his little farm, combines almost all the images of rural pleasure; and he, therefore that can read it with indifference, has no sense of pastoral poetry:

*Fortunate senex, ergo tua rura manebunt,
Et tibi magna satis; quamvis lapis omnia nudus,
Limosque palus obducat pascua junco.
Non insueta graves tentabunt pabula fœtas,
Nec mala vicini pecoris contagia lædent.
Fortunate senex, his inter flumina nota,
Et fontes sacros, frigus captabis opacum,
Hinc tibi, quæ semper vicino ab limite sepes,
Hyblæis apibus florem depasta salicli,
Sæpe levi somnum suadebit inire susurro.
Hinc altâ sub rupe canet frondator ad auras;
Nec tamen interea rauca, tua cura, palumbes,
Nec gemere aëria cessabit turtur ab ulmo.*

Happy old man! then still thy farm's restor'd,
Enough for thee, shall bless thy frugal board.
What tho' rough stones the naked soil o'er spread,
Or marshy bulrush rear its wa'try head,
No foreign food thy teeming ewes shall fear,
No touch contagious spread its influence here.
Happy old man! here 'mid th' accustom'd streams
And sacred springs, you'll shun the scorching beams;

While

While from yon willow-fence, thy pasture's bound,
 The bees that suck their flow'ry stores around,
 Shall sweetly mingle, with the whispering boughs,
 Their lulling murmurs, and invite repose :

While from steep rocks the pruner's song is heard ;
 Nor the soft-cooing dove, thy fav'rite bird,
 Mean while shall cease to breathe her melting strain,
 Nor turtles from th'aerial elm to plain.

WARTON.

It may be observed, that these two poems were produced by events that really happened; and may, therefore, be of use to prove, that we can always feel more than we can imagine, and that the most artful fiction must give way to truth.

T.

I am, SIR,

Your humble servant,

DUBIUS.

END OF VOL. II.



